

being bothered

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being bothered

by [Personalintel](#)

Summary

Technoblade does not think that having matching hair is a reason to be reborn as someone's sibling.

Notes

the strangest crossover,
my two loves.

The Blood God

Chapter Notes

(Chapter 18 is when the plot to Naruto officially starts)

He wanted vengeance.

Specifically against whatever god decided, he should be reborn after sacrificing himself dramatically and saying his goodbyes, finally finding peace or something.

Instead, he woke to silence; he assumed this was what was after death. Pure peace and quiet floating in a dark abyss. No voices screaming blood, no annoying little siblings not understanding the importance of a character arc, or saving a friend from their own stupidity, just pure peace.

The peace was a lie.

Being born was horrific enough. Why would he want to remember it?

He wouldn't. That's the answer.

It did explain the whispers he would hear occasionally, humming and laughing. He assumed he was imagining it as they lasted only so long, then disappeared into this quiet void.

He was the firstborn child of a man and woman named Kizashi and Mebuki Haruno. They were not warriors—thank god—they were a couple living...somewhere in Japan. Normal people who were merchants with no fighting affiliation. He noted his father's hair colour with joy. His pink hair was possible here and might not stand out.

Small blessings.

Blessings were nothing compared to being a baby. It was a mix of miserable and relaxing. He could sleep hours and not be disturbed by annoying blond children, study the new world around him in peace and relaxation. However, he now had parents. Parents who seemed to actually be good parents (who knew they existed?)

They laid next to him constantly and talked to him in loud baby talk—his name was Ren. How inventive. They walked around with him everywhere. He was endlessly cooed over and pinched. He would just blink at them, refusing to show any emotion. They laughed and were awed over his bright pink hair and pale skin and dark eyes—his pink hair followed him through death, it seemed. They would call him solemn and say he would grow to be a 'serious young man'. And he will not speak of the tickles and giggles. He still had some dignity.

He hated feeding and changing, but life could be far worse. Instead, he lived with a normal family who didn't care if he became a legendary fighter cursed with the voices of those he's killed.

He did learn that ninjas are the basis of fighters in this world. They were strong and fast without potions, but they seemed more subtle. Less screaming, running through the streets, and more running, yelling along rooftops.

Technology here was also worse and better, no Redstone—again thank god—but some type of electricity existed, they were lights and power. It reminded him of Tubbo, technology with no right to work being perfected.

All-in-all, he was fine with this, kind of. But he would make do, he could still be retired and lounge for many years until he wanted to work for his parents. They also seemed fine with this arrangement, cooing and dancing with him through their home, not caring that he has no care in the world and sleeps all day; that might be because he is a baby though.

Technoblade, now Ren, was satisfied, happy, and apparently solemn

The Pig King

Chapter Notes

god I love sarcasm

Being betrayed was not a new feeling.

He'd been betrayed by almost everyone back home at least once, used and discarded when he was no longer needed. But this....

"A little sibling, won't that be nice?" His mother was lying next to him on her arm. He blinked black eyes at her. She blinked her green eyes back.

Her warm hand rested on his small back and held there, feeling his heartbeat, "You would only be two years apart—if that."

"Absolutely not. I won't suffer another child," He stated plainly, picking up a rattle and tossing it aside.

She giggled, hand moving to his pink head, curling the straight hair in her fingers, "I would love that too, but your father is being very stubborn. Saying we should wait to give me time to heal." She scoffed, "As if I don't know my limits."

He leaned into the fingers, playing with his hair, "I have to agree with father on this. I don't think we need another toddler running amok."

She hummed back, "I know, but how do I convince him?"

"That is not what I'm saying."

She leaned over and kissed his head, breathing in lightly, "Let's go talk to him."

"Please no."

She stood, bones cracking, and leaned down and picked him off the ground. He was startled, still not used to being picked up so easily. She wrapped her arms around him and made her way to the kitchen, slowly bouncing him as they arrived at his father. He was cooking some noodles for them. He would be getting some mush as his baby teeth had not yet arrived. He smiled at them, "What can I do for you and that young man?"

She laughed, grabbed his tiny hand, and waved it in a 'come over' gesture. He chuckled and strode over. He kissed his mother, leaned down, and kissed his head. Smiling at them, "What is it?"

“Mom is speaking nonsense, don’t let her have another child please, I know you have some say.”

“We were just discussing giving him another sibling to play with,” She swayed.

“Oh,” He bent down to look him in the eyes, “So you also want a sibling?”

Matching brown eyes were locked, “No.”

“See!” His mother exclaimed, “He’s desperate for companionship.”

His father leaned up and huffed dramatically, “I do see, he might do well with someone to watch over.”

“Oh god, no.”

“Someone, to watch over,” She leaned her face against his father’s chest, “A little brother?”

He was completely blocked in by his parents, unable to see past them, “Did you say a brother?” His tiny pink head whipped around.

“I think a girl, hm?” His father backed up looking over his shoulder at the noodles, “One of each sounds nice.”

“I don’t know,” She made her way to the table and sat down, “I think Ren would do well with another boy. He will never fear hurting him, and being too strong, wouldn’t that be nice?” She held him in front of her face, smiling widely at him.

He glared at her, “A younger boy who would also force me into trouble? No thanks.”

She cooed at him, “Maybe a friend would cheer you up, hm?”

“Why do you ask me?” He huffed, “You don’t want my actual answer; you only hear what you want.”

“My solemn boy is so talkative today!” She giggled.

“See,” He deadpanned.

“Maybe a little sister would make him happier,” His father sat two delicious-smelling plates in front of them and a small bowl of mush, “A sister would bring life into his unsmiling face.”

“Unsmiling? I don’t think that’s a word—”

“He’s not even a year,” His mother cut in, “I think it would be nice for him to have something to smile at.” She held out a spoon of mush to him. He turned his head, rejecting the mush. She sighed, pushing it closer to his lips, “It’s good—it’s apples, you love apples.”

He sighed, turned his head, and ate the apple mush (Not as good as his Golden Apples) as his mother and father let out a coo. He died a little on the inside, even when he was young he was never so babied. He imagined this is how Fundy felt around Wilbur.

“So well mannered,” His mother gushed, feeding him another bite, “A true gentleman.”

He snorted, choking a little on the mush, “Gentleman, my reputation will be ruined.”

“He might do well around more people,” His father said, “I think another sibling might help.”

He turned and stared at his father in horror, “Why do you forsake me? I thought you were on my side. How have you fallen so fast, Dad?”

They both gasped and turned to him, and he blinked.

“Did you hear that?”

“He said Dad!”

He sighed, his tiny baby body deflating. Pink hair fell over his face. He thought of monologuing, but he had no Chat to turn to. He waited for his parents to calm down from their excitement.

“Can you say Mama?” His mother leaned closer, tucking his hair out of his face.

“Dad!” His father cheered, “He said Dad first, my good boy!”

He sighed long before folding under peer pressure, “Mama.”

They both let out loud cheers, forgetting their amazing-smelling noodles. He started forlorn at the noodles while they hugged and embraced; he hoped they would forget all of this talk about having another child.

They did not forget about having another child.

They brought it up constantly, whispering about names and genders; they even started redecorating the guest bedroom. He was carried everywhere now, brought to lunches and small picnics. They loved bragging about having a gentleman for a son (*he can't wait to ruin that idea*) .

He doesn't know if his mother is pregnant; she hasn't mentioned it or changed. She seems tenser and more aware, but she might just be paranoid.

In other news, now that he's been taken around and gets to explore, he's noticed more about the world in which he lives. The ninja seemed nicer than normal, and he heard that something called the ‘ *Chunin Exams* ’ was happening soon here, in ‘ *The Hidden Leaf village* ’ —again how inventive. He also noticed some things that were much more alarming.

It was a military dictatorship.

They have copious amounts of propaganda.

They encourage child soldiers.

The first time he saw a child soldier or a '*Genin*' he freaked out. He could only see Tommy, a child forced into war or Tubbo collapsing under a country, or Ranboo, fearing for his life. Children who idealise war and fighting without knowing the pain of losing and taking life. Laughing about going to war and playing a game at battles and politics. That cruel reality will kick in for these kids, and they will hate what they've become because he understands that the propaganda of this place will keep most from hating the village. Instead, it tells you to hate yourself. Make you despise that you failed, not that the village failed you. Rarely will they realise they are being brainwashed and rarely are they strong enough to do anything about it.

He knows these places.

He slaughtered these places.

He hates these places.

He didn't become an anarchist because he hated the government; he did it because he hated what the government promoted, fear and anger, battle and cruelty. It creates a tribalism that keeps people from being able to sympathise and appreciate others; they put a form of power first instead of friends or family. They believe the government is more important than anything. He saw how it corrupted Wilbur, Quackity, Schlatt, and Dream. They all fell prey to power and the government; they all would die to keep that power—as if it meant anything when they were alone. Places like this village were why he hated the government.

He, however, also saw his first dog.

Small blessings.

It was a small dog made to be picked up and showed off, but he was happy to see it. His parents also saw that he was happy, as they bent down to let him pet it (the very good boy). He said his third official word that day, puppy. He thinks his parents would have cried if they weren't in public. He saw other dogs after that, massive ones that patrolled with others along the streets. Though he was not actually a child, he very much wanted one.

It was right when the winter ended that he saw that his mother was indeed pregnant. She was visibly showing and extremely happy; she had started talking to him about a sibling, ignoring his protests. He had celebrated his first birthday without much fuss—from him, not his parents. They made a massive deal about it; though he still refuses to walk, crawling is good enough for him.

He saw celebrations going on down the streets days after his birthday. Apparently, some important people were having a birthday or were born—or were dying—who knows? People with eyes like Eret's were walking around; his parents found this shocking, whispering

anxiously behind their hands. They looked pleased and upset at the strange people in powerful robes. *Rich* , he thought, *ninja* , he corrected. They were all stuck up and beautiful and they held themselves like Phil. Strong but putting on a royal front. They seemed more uptight though.

His mother was massive when spring began; she told him that she would be giving birth soon and that he would be a big brother. He dreaded the day. He desperately hoped it wasn't a boy, he loved Tommy and Ranboo and he could never replace them, but he did not want another young brother dragging him into conflict and then betraying him, it hurt too much.

He got his wish in March; she went into labour and soon gave birth at the hospital. He learned about medical ninjutsu while he was there, a strange concept but not important. His mom thankfully gave birth to a girl, not a boy. His parents were pleased, both crying and happy. It was strange being picked up by his sobbing father and brought to his mother's side.

She looked up at him, sweaty, but smiling, "Look who it is, Ren."

He looked down at the babe, a small thing with pale skin and bright pink hair. *She looked like him* , his chest hurt all of a sudden. He thought of Nikki; he looked at his mother.

She smiled, green eyes bright with life, "This is Sakura, your little sister."

He felt choked up, *No! I don't want to get attached to another one!*

His father held him tighter with misty eyes.

His black eyes looked down at his sister, and spoke a word that would be remembered by his parents for years, "Child."

The Mother of Flowers

Chapter Notes

gosh this is fun!

Her boy was precious.

She remembers when she got pregnant with him, it was a shock to her and Kizashi. They had wanted kids but they were going to wait a year or two, but when she went in to get an illness check after vomiting all of her food, she was having a baby. She knew her husband was nervous but they were both ready, thus they cautiously prepared for a child.

He was born in winter, with bubblegum pink hair atop his quiet head. They had been terrified when he was born, he was so silent. Not a cry from his tiny rose mouth and his face had been scrunched like he'd been woken from a long nap. They had been crying the second he appeared, sobbing for her boy to be okay. When they sat his small frame in her arms she stopped crying. It felt like an assurance, he felt like home and safety. He had been small, barely bigger than Sakura, but he was awake and aware.

Kizashi joked he was born paranoid, a little ninja and warrior.

Ren was smart, that was true. He was grouchy and pouty, like an old man. But he was still a babe, he always wanted to be carried, he liked hugs and kisses, he loved staring at the sky or pretty colours, a babe wanting love at heart.

Ren was a great baby, only whining—never crying—when hungry or when he soiled his diaper, he was a little gentleman being so polite and obedient. They loved to look at him, his pink hair, his old man face, and his small precious hands. He had his father's eyes and her pale complexion. His eyes almost looked red in the night.

She can't explain the moment she wanted another kid. She had been cleaning around the house when she walked past their guest room. It was a bare brown and white room with flowers on the walls. It felt so empty, missing. It was lacking in love and life, it should be colourful with stuffed animals around the room—

“Mebuki?”

She spun, her husband was standing at the door. He was holding little Ren who was laying his head on Kizashi's shoulder. She was holding a little potted plant, a small carved tree given to them by a friend. She sat it down with a shaky hand.

“What are you doing in here?” He walked over to her.

She looked down at the tree, “I don’t know.”

“We were calling your name,” He hiked Ren up, “We were about to leave for our walk and you weren't answering.”

She breathed in, “Can I come?”

Their matching eyes blinked at her, “Of course.”

They left the house in silence, walking to the nearby park and playground. Kizashi was quietly talking to Ren about the plants they were walking past. Ren would hum or grumble at his statements, hand clasped around a gold button on his father's chest.

They were walking past a small pond when she spoke.

“I want to have another,” She stated.

“Another?” He hummed.

“Baby,” She amended, “I want another baby.”

Both her son and husband turned to her. Her husband was shocked, and her babe was pouting with a childish glare.

“Another baby,” He chuckled, “We just had one.”

She gazed at the blue pond, “I know—I just think we ought to have one more.”

Her husband huffed, leaning down and sitting and setting Ren on the grass, “Now? We do not need to rush.”

She sat next to him, “Ren is perfect, I think we would be fine having one more.”

“Ren is perfect,” He nodded, watching their son get comfortable on the grass, “But he is still little and I don't want us to rush having kids 'cause we are content with Ren.”

“It's not just Ren,” She argued, “I think having kids close together will promote friendship between them.”

“Not rivalry,” He joked.

Ren let out what can only be called a snort.

“No rivalries,” She nodded, “A deep love that means they will always care for each other.”

Her husband smiled, crow's feet by his eyes, “Maybe.”

“Maybe,” She snorted.

It was not a maybe.

She did not take no, she was a force and she wanted another child damnit. She knew Mizashi wasn't against it; he was just unsure if it was a good idea or not (*she could feel it in her bones—it was an amazing idea*) .

It felt like her soul was sparkling, fate was tugging on her strings, telling her this would bring her joy. She thought her husband felt it too, he would stare at Ren for long periods lost in thought, or walk past that guest room and pause like someone called his name.

They eventually decided they would start saving money, business was random. Some months they made enough money to pay everything off and have extra, others they were barely getting by. The months leading up to their decision were the best-paying months they ever had. They saved plenty of money for another babe or even three with how much they made. It was like fate was aiding them (*it was, she knew it was*) .

She got pregnant at the beginning of the fall of Ren's first year. His birthday was in the park and many of their favourite customers and employees sent gifts, and a few family friends came. She noticed many were also pregnant, they told her many of them were surprise kids (*Fate was apparently pulling on everyone's string*) .

Ren was saying small words, mama or dad occasionally. He chanted puppy when he saw dogs and when he saw a bee he would mumble 'Tubs' . Their doctor said he used word association. Like when he saw birds he would caw or scream 'pheel' . Her smart boy.

Pregnancy with Sakura was fantastic. At least better than with Ren, perhaps because Ren was a surprise and she thought she was maybe....dying. Sakura was an easy-going pregnancy, everything was predictable and she craved sweets the entire time.

Having Sakura in her arms was just as amazing as having Ren, they looked so similar. Pink hair and pale skin, Sakura had her eyes though. Ren was almost the same, but there was something slightly different. He had a happiness that wasn't there before. He watched Sakura constantly, eyes twitching any time she moved. He was like her own personal guardian, a hawk on her tiny baby shoulder.

"I was right," She told Kizashi.

"Right about what?" He replied.

"Sakura being good for Ren," She said smugly.

Her husband scoffed, "Yeah—okay."

She giggled.

Her husband was happier as well, he carried their two babies constantly. They decided to start taking Ren to work, which meant they were taking Sakura as well. They turned out to be amazing for business. Having Ren sit on the counter next to jewellery and spun clothing dressed in their items was fantastic. People would come to coo over him and end up buying

handmade baby clothes for children they don't have. Ren would shove stuff at them and they would end up just walking away with it, not realising they were swindled by a solemn baby.

Sakura stayed in a small bassinet in the back most of the time, playing with her rattle and teething on rings. When Ren took his naps he would be placed in the same bassinet with his sister, and he was so aware of her. He was always startled when they got too close, glaring at them for disturbing his and his sister's sleep.

Her husband gushed about the great business and Ren's future business in retail.

For now, life was perfect for them, a screaming terror in Sakura and a peaceful boy in Ren.

Piglin Brute

Chapter Notes

oh boy Im enjoying this project

The rumbles started in the middle of the night. He woke instantly when he felt the power. It had felt so similar to Admins from before that he thought he was home.

On wobbly baby legs, he stood up in his crib. His tiny hands rested on the walls, looking around rapidly, his pink hair flying around his face. The power was shaking the walls. He felt like choking.

His breath was caught in his throat, looking around his room, painted stars rumbled on his wall.

Sakura .

He breathed in and screamed as loud as he could.

His voice was scratchy from sleep, but the wail of a toddler was undeniable. His parents came through the door in an instant. They turned the light on and ran over. His father ran to him and picked his sobbing body up. His mother searched the room, but unable to find the danger she turned to them.

His father rocked him slowly, shushing him, "I got you...it's okay...."

"What happened?" His mother wrapped her robe closer around herself.

"I have no idea," Father whispered. Hugging him close, Techno felt his throat clog and coughed haggard.

Sakura .

"Sister," He begged, "Child."

His mother came over, "You wanna see your sister? I'll go get her."

Techno was shaking. He could feel the power growing more terrifying. Closer to his family, an Admin bombing their world.

His father kept attempting to calm him down, "Your moms getting your sister, it will be okay...."

“No, No, No, No....” He chanted, tears coming down his face, “Monster.”

““Monster?”” His father squinted at him, “Is there a monster in here?”

He could feel the beast growing in power, and the room began to shake. He let out another wail.

His father tensed, looking around the room panicked, “Mebuki!”

“I have Sakura!” She yelled back.

“We need to get downstairs!” He replied. Grabbing a blanket and wrapping him in it. They ran out of the room next door, and his mother and sister followed. Running passed the furniture and shaking pictures on the walls.

Their father swung open the front door, other families were stepping out of their homes, searching for the cause of the shaking. His heart was pounding in his tiny body, and his eyes stuck to his sister.

She was a sobbing pink blob in her mother's arms. She was clinging with small fingers to her mother's robe, shaking, not understanding what the object of her fear was.

“What is that?” His mother whispered.

An Admin, a God, nothing can kill it.

“Where are the ninjas?’ His father asked.

Sakura whimpered again.

“Monster,” He sobbed.

His parents nodded to each other before closing the door and leaving their home. Other families were making a similar decision running out of their houses. Rushing to a safe shelter.

The ground rumbled, and power swirled, far out of the village. A dark creature was gaining strength. He could barely see the ninja rushing around, seemingly floundering without instruction. Some ninjas were trying to lead scared civilians to safe houses, others were rushing to the danger, more stupid than fearless.

He was bounced by his father hastily, still trying to calm the normally monotone boy, while mom followed close behind with a petrified baby.

Arriving at a safe house, he could see ninjas trying to herd people safely, but yelling at people to stay calm was not working. They shoved their way through, rushing down the stairs, into the deepest room. Lights flickered, and the ground shook the stairwell. People thumped against the wall, and shouts and cursing were reverberating around the room. His parent's dove for the west wall, crouching down as the lights flickered and bangs erupted.

His father wrapped his arm around his mother, keeping everyone close together as more people barreled into the room.

Sakura was still crying, wrapped in a pink blanket. His mother pulled her closer while leaning into his father. He pressed his still-crying face into his father's chest, attempting to calm his breathing.

What was that? This world did not have an Admin, nor any gods that reigned supreme. He tried to summon XD early in his new life, but nothing. No death gods or blood gods. Was it a person? He thought this world was weaker than his old one. No one seemed too powerful. Did they even have withers or dragons?

He looked over at Sakura, peeking at her disgruntled face.

A baby in a world where a creature as strong as a god roamed.

Great.

Leaving the shelter was slow work.

People were terrified, unsure if the battle was still raging on. No one wanted to move, waiting for the winner to come and collect them. Unsure if the village or the monster won.

He was tired after his little... *crying session* .

His sister was sleeping now, and his mother was dozing. His father was awake waiting for news and if he could leave to see if everything was gone.

Techno was awake, searching the room. His father had been trying to get him to sleep for hours, but he would not sleep until the danger was gone and his family was safe.

The crowded room of families was never quiet. Kids crying, snoring, and laughing were constant. Adults whispering, gossiping, and sobbing were everywhere. There were only two or three ninjas in the room, and they were being harassed by anxious parents. They were nervous, he could tell, standing tense and strained.

People started leaving the room when some higher-ups came in to clear them.

The door had opened, and everyone shot up, petrified. They cheered when a jounin walked in. He told everyone that they were allowed to head home.

He did not say that the beast was dead.

They were one of the last to leave the room. His family stayed latched to the wall, unwilling to run with a sleeping baby and alert toddler. His parents whispered to each other, talking about what happened and if their home was gone.

They mentioned the name of the creature, a Tailed-beast. A chakra monster (*what the hell is a chakra?*) . They said it got loose, and only the Hokage (*a fighter?*) could defeat it.

They seemed very concerned.

Thus, *he* was very concerned.

When they did leave the shelter to start making their way home, ninjas were everywhere searching through rubble or helping panicked families. He noted how upset they seemed, downtrodden almost, someone must have died.

First time?

...

Their home was not gone, thankfully. The sun was soon to rise, but he doubted anyone would be leaving for at least a week. He remembered the months after Doomsday, how people become paranoid homebodies or over-confident, terrified idiots. But it does seem like they won, not the Tailed-beast. If there were no follow-ups, people would calm down soon enough, but he could see the burning trees and smell the bloody iron. People were dead. That would be impactful, but they would have to get over it ‘*for the village*’ . He had no doubt a mass funeral would be held to ‘*honour those who fell for our village*’ . It will be mass propaganda telling people to let go of their fear while not explaining anything. But people don't work like that. They will be angry and want to blame something. Anything because the regime won't let them hate them, so they will hate something or someone else.

Military dictatorships are *so* predictable.

He was right, of course.

The funeral was exactly two weeks later. A funeral for all those who died. A place where we can mourn and then move on.

Everyone was forced to attend to show unity. He and his sister were dressed up in black and wrapped in blankets. Their hair stood out in the mass of darkness. He stayed quiet the whole time, keeping his eyes on his sister. Watching her try to eat their father's sleeve and silently cheering her on. The unexpected part was that the Hokage died (*not a fighter, but the leader*).

He died to the Beast, and the new Hokage was the old Hokage (*no elections, got it*) .

The old man explained nothing and went on about the ‘*will of fire*’ or something. He only said it was ‘*taken care of.*’

It was all government speak, really.

They went home happy that no one they knew died. Sakura let out loud giggles to nothing at all, Mom and Dad walked hand-and-hand down the road, and he stared at the sky watching the clouds run. He felt almost lucky but terrified. He had no power here, no way to fight

back, but he was not involved. He didn't have to die for this place, and he had no reason to be forced to.

It was almost nice.

The Warrior Child

Chapter Notes

omg a plot?

Techno was adapting.

Slowly .

But he was adapting.

He was older now, walking and talking in full sentences. Sakura was also doing all of those things. He knows she is four so he is almost six, old enough to wield his sword and kill a man. But he will not be wielding a sword or killing a man (*probably*).

He was a merchant's son and apparently had something wrong with his chakra.

“What’s the problem?” His father asked.

“He seems to have a block,” The medic-nin replied, holding a glowing green hand at his chest, “Like his chakra is unable to exit his body normally.”

“What do you mean?” His father asked worriedly.

“His chakra is stuck in his body, unable to leave—he can't physically use it,” He explained, looking baffled.

“Physically?” He interrupted voice monotone but squeaky.

“You can't cast Jutsu,” He said, “But unlike others, you still produce copious amounts of it.” The man scratched his brow looking at a sheet of paper, “Your coils aren't broken and your body still acts like it has chakra.”

“Is this dangerous at all?” His father's hand rested on his shoulder.

The medic-nin shook his head, “Actually—it could be the opposite, his chakra is working overtime trying to expel itself—and if he is hurt he might be healed in a moment's time.”

“What if it's never expelled?” He swung his foot back and forth.

“What?” They both asked.

“I'm not gonna be a ninja,” He explained, “Why would I get hurt?”

His father turned to the man, “What if it isn't expelled?”

The man blinked, “Um, well if it continues to build up and never settles you might have to....learn of some way to lose some of it.”

“Like hurting myself?” He scrunched his brows together, *don't people look down on others for hurting themselves?*

“No—”

“No!”

They said at the same time.

The medic cleared his throat, “No, not really, but taijutsu training is something you can do that will expel it naturally .”

“Tai-jutsu?” He strung the words together.

His father chuckled, hand coming to his head, “Fighting—hand to hand, like punching someone.”

Techno nodded solemnly, “Like that one boy I punched for being mean to Sakura.”

“Yeah,” He snorted, “Like when you punched him through a wall.”

“Through a wall?” Medic-nin asked, confused.

His father nodded, “Right through a wall.”

“A normal punch?” The Medic held a hand over his chest again, “Sounds like a chakra-filled punch.”

“Chakra filled?” His father tensed, “I thought it was normal—I've seen other kids hit that hard.”

“Clan kids,” The Medic corrected, “They are taught from a young age to be able to do that.”

“Oh,” His father said elegantly.

“Why can I do it?” He pressed.

“Your chakra,” The man leaned away, “Your control is technically perfect because well—”

“How important is this?” His father finally said.

The Medic-nin blinked at him, “What do you mean?”

“Will any of this affect him and his life?” He asked.

“Uh,” He floundered, “Not unless he becomes a ninja.”

His father looked at him, brown eyes to black eyes, “Are you becoming a ninja son?”

Techno coughed, suppressing a laugh, “No father, I am not becoming a ninja.”

His father closed his eyes and nodded, breathing in deeply he turned to the medic, “I think that covers that.”

The man swallowed and quickly finished the appointment. They left soon after, Techno now one lollipop richer. The walk home was spent with him riding on his father's shoulders.

Weeks later they had to visit the hospital.

He had gotten so sick he couldn't move, his body felt locked up. It reminded him of a weakness potion, always dreary. His sister attempted to help him by bringing him pillows and blankets saying....

“You need to stay warm,” Her big green eyes blinked at him, “Mama says you need blankets.”

“Kill me,” He groaned under the mountain, “Mom is lying to you.”

She dragged her pink blankets onto the bed, hopping next to him, “Mama doesn't lie.”

He turned to her, “Mom is being mean then.”

He kept a small wall of blankets between them. She peeked at him through his little gap, her pink hair was everywhere, barely in the ponytail. Her green eyes squinted at him.

She giggled, “You look like a blob.”

He poked his arm out, finger poking her in the side sending her into giggles, “I am the blood god here to destroy you.”

She squealed and hid, “I don't want to lose my blood!”

“Close enough,” The blanket mountain shook to his coughs.

Sakura came out of her shield pouting at him, “Do you want a story?”

He let out a long sigh, “Sure.”

Her stories were princess stories, all of them, he would have to fix that, he would not have a sibling that didn't know any mythology again.

Either way, he got worse.

His father had to pick him up—ignoring his protest—to bring him to the medic. His sister had jolly waved to him on the way out, and his mom stood worried over her shoulder. He

groaned pathetically at them, calling them to save him from this hell. His sister let out a loud giggle at his pain, telling him to ‘ *get better soon!*’

What a demon.

They set him up in a small window room, told him a medic-nin will come to see him soon and left. His father stood outside his room casually looking around, ready to pester whoever came to see him.

He coughed pitifully in his oversized bed. His pink hair was pulled back in a bun, he had refused haircuts since he was young and now his hair was even longer than his sisters. His face was burning up and he felt like exploding. His chakra must hate him. He tried telling his father that he just needs to get in a fight, but that was not taken well.

No fights for the five-year-old. What a joke. He could take anyone.

A loud knock brought him back. A medic was standing at his door walking past his father.

“Ren?” She asked as she entered the room.

“Yes?” He grumbled, burying himself deeper into his blankets.

“Okay,” She walked over, holding out her hand, “You came in recently because of your chakra, correct?”

He squirmed, “Y-yes.”

His father sat by his side, “This is related to his chakra problems right?”

Her hand glowed green, “More than likely—we might need a Hyuga to check if your system is having troubles.”

“A-a Hyuga?” his father grabbed his hand, “I thought he was just having a build-up.”

She nodded, “We would want them to check if it's causing problems.”

“How do I get better?” He interrupted with his stuffy nose.

They turned to him and she pulled away, “You need to force it from your body.”

“How?” They both asked.

“It will have to be taijutsu.” She explained, “For now we could just try and take some blood which might enact your chakra.”

“A needle?” *Not bloodletting?*

She nodded, “Unless you feel well enough to go to our gym and hit a bag for a few hours.”

“Ugh,” He replied.

“Thought so,” She clicked her tongue, “We are going to have to set you up with some taijutsu lessons at least once a week to keep your chakra under control—some meditating as well.”

“Ugh,” He repeated.

She shook her head sympathetically, “Be glad you aren't going to the academy—you wouldn't be able to become a ninja with your condition.”

“So nothing changed then,” He mumbled.

She hummed.

“Taijutsu lessons’?” His father prodded.

She wrote something down, “We believe it will get worse as he gets older, thus he needs a constant source of chakra draining—taijutsu training can get harder and easier depending on how strong the block is that day.”

He's going to end up fighting either way, huh Chat?

His father looked at him, clutching his hand, he smiled at him, “You will be fine...just some ninja lessons for fun.”

He sniffed, “As long as I'm still able to become a merchant.”

His father laughed, “Of course.”

The medic smiled, “Okay we will help set those up—I will go get your needle.”

They nodded and she left.

“I hate needles,” His father shivered.

He nodded emphatically, “Tiny swords, they are useful...I once killed a man with just needles.”

His father chuckled, “Of course, you have, son.”

He's glad he understands.

The Child Sister

Chapter Notes

I love writing for kids, they are such little shits

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Ren was starting taijutsu lessons tomorrow.

Sakura skipped along the rocks in the playground. She counted every rock she jumped to.

One

Two

Three

Four...

Her brother had gotten back from being sick only three days ago (*she counted!*) , and he was very excited for his lessons. He had laid in bed after getting home, she had read all of her books to him when he finally woke up.

Yesterday he had told her that she could take his place in taijutsu if he hated it too much. She was very excited to see the lessons, she remembered when he punched that boy through the bathroom wall when he made her cry. She practised every day hitting her wall trying to get it to explode, but she had not succeeded yet.

Five

Six

Seven

Ei—

“What are you doing?”

She screamed and jumped around and attempted to hit the noise. Her fist went straight into someone's shoulder, and her knuckles cracked against bone.

The noise also screamed, grabbing their now bruised shoulder. They slumped over themselves, falling to the grass. Their grey clothing dragged into the dirt. Brown, messy, curly hair fell around a red face, and narrowed eyes.

“What’d you do that for?!” The boy yelled at her. He stood shakily back up, clutching his shoulder.

She flushed to her pink roots, and stuttered, “I’m sorry—you scared me!”

“You hit me!” He was also red, “It's not my fault you're a scaredy cat!”

She narrowed her eyes at him, “I am not!”

He snorted, “Yes you are.”

“No, I'm not,” She stood taller.

His slit eyes were squinted, “Yes, you are.”

Always do the unexpected in battle, Ren told her.

She shot another fist to his tummy, attempting to take him off guard. He was not so easily lured, launching his own arm to grab hers. He caught her pale arm in his clawed hand. She inhaled sharply, he had predicted her attack? What? *How?*

“Why you—”

She narrowed her answer down quickly.

She threw her foot up and into his right knee.

Always remember to use your legs, Ren reminded her.

He flew backwards slightly, falling onto his butt. He released her arm in his shock. She breathed heavily, readjusting her pose. Her pink hair flung around her face into the curve of her neck. Her red pants were gathered at her ankle. Her right hand was already bruised.

He looked up at her, his face gathered and he snarled.

He launched himself at her from the dirt, pulling her to the ground with him. She yelped as they fell into rocks, before gathering herself and throwing her fists at him. They battered each other, throwing fists and kicking and scratching.

Do not back down from a fight, Ren consoled her.

She was fighting for her *life*. She did not want to lose again only for Ren to come and clean up for her.

She would die to win this fight, she decided.

The battle raged on with both parties playing dirty, yanking hair and biting hands. She ripped at his ugly brown shirt trying to go for the neck. He went for her chest attempting to tear her heart out.

A swift body dove in between them, each hand grabbing their shirts and pulling them away from the other. Wild brown hair was in her view with red along the face and slit eyes. The woman looked between them, her face was in a snarl reminiscent of a dog. She held both of them up by their collars and shook them for a second.

Her face went from enraged to amuse in seconds, “What the hell are you two doing?”

They looked at each other.

“He scared me—”

“I was just asking—”

“Then called me—”

“Hit me—”

She shook them both again, rattling their brains.

She huffed, “Alright, guess we are going to need to sit down and talk this out instead of attacking each other like animals!” Her voice ended in a yell.

“Sorry,” Her voice was quiet.

“Yeah, sorry,” His voice was also quiet.

She huffed at them, before looking at Sakura, “Where are your parents?”

She folded like paper, “Over there.” Her hand shot out.

“Alright,” Then she walked over there while still holding them.

Her mother was sitting on a bench, weaving a small hat for Ren, it was in his favourite colours and might help with the sunburns he always got. Dad was with Ren, making sure he

was still well enough for tomorrow—his taijutsu training, how exciting!

The woman dropped both of them in front of her mother, and both of them sat on the ground, neither looking up.

Her mother was startled, “Sakura what—what happened to your face!?”

“These two,” The woman began, “Decided to brawl on the playground.”

Her mother held her face in her hand, “Another fight, Sakura?”

“I would’ve won this one,” She mumbled, ducking her face into her chest.

“Another?” The woman interrupted, “She's fought like this before?”

Her mother pulled out a first-aid, “Yes—I'm afraid she got in fights before, but she's never started one.”

The boy spoke up with a yell, “She hit me!”

They all looked at him and he flushed, “S-she was the one who hit me first.”

It was her turn to flush, “It was an accident.”

“Sakura,” Her mom sounded embarrassed, “You can't just hit people.”

“I didn't mean to,” She stuttered, “He scared me....”

The boy didn't say anything, crossing his arms and staring at the ground. His mom nudged him, and he winced when her foot touched his side. Both of their faces were scratched and bleeding, and his neck was bruised, as was her chest.

Her mother sighed deeply, touching her split lip, “Apologise then, if this was all a misunderstanding.”

Sakura shuffled her feet, turning to look at the boy and his mother, “I'm sorry for hitting you.”

He quietly responded in kind, “I'm sorry for scaring you.”

His mother bent down to look at his face, “You sure got him good, pup.”

She flushed again, “Sorry.”

“What, were you going to kill each other?” The mother jokes, hand held out and glowed a pretty green over his chest.

She's a ninja.

They answer honestly.

“No.”

“Yes.”

They blinked at one another.

They all turned to her, “ ‘Yes ?’ ” The mother asked, flabbergasted.

Sakura nodded solemnly, “Ren says I should never back down from a fight.”

Mom groaned and dropped her face into her hand again. The other woman barked a loud laugh, while the boy looked around for something.

“That is quite the statement,” She continued, “You looking to be a ninja?”

The boy whipped his head to them.

“Ninja?” Sakura asked, “I’m going to be a merchant.”

The mother stood up straight, “You can also be a ninja—how old are you?”

She held up her fingers, “Four.”

“You can sign up for the academy,” The mother explained, “Become a ninja for the village.”

The boy nodded, “I’m going when I turn eight.”

His mother nodded, “My eldest is in her first year—we never introduced ourselves did we?” She looked between the kids and they shook their heads.

She stood tall, with brown curly hair moving around her, “Tsume Inuzuka.”

Her mother bowed her head, “Mebuki Haruno and Sakura.”

The boy stood up and nodded in return, “Kiba.”

“Kuromaru,” Another voice said.

They turned their heads to see a massive dog. He had an eyepatch on and was as tall as her mom. They cocked their heads at it.

“Tsume,” The dog (*puppy!*) turned to her, “Your daughter is looking for you.”

Tsume nodded before turning to them, “Thanks for not killing my kid—it would be quite embarrassing for him to die to a little pink civilian.” She cackled, bending down and picked up her protesting son and set him on the big dog (*puppy!*) . They waved while walking away towards the outskirts of the village.

Sakura’s green eyes glowed in the bright sun as she turned to her mom, “I’m going to be a ninja.”

Somewhere close; her brother sneezed and banged his head against a wall.

Chapter End Notes

fight! fight! fight!

The Pink Pariah

Chapter Notes

new character, pog?

Techno has had a *horrible* week.

First, his ‘ *chakra* ’ tried to kill him (*Fools, Technoblade never dies*). Then he was told he would *have* to learn taijutsu if he wanted to live. *And* he has to begin meditating to gain control of his chakra.

Now, this...

“I’m going to go to ninja school!” His sister declared, standing in his doorway covered in bandages.

“Why?” He droned, looking through his small library.

She clambered over to him, “I can learn to fight good—well.”

“I could just teach you,” He grumbled, picking up a tale on the Sage of Six Paths.

“You aren’t a ninja,” She stated simply, “And I will beat you in battle.”

He turned to her shocked, “Beat me?”

She bobbed her pink head, “Yep! I will never beat you if you teach me.”

“Why do you want to beat me?” It reminded him a little too close to another child he watched over, “I’m supposed to be able to protect you.”

She hummed, “But if I can beat *you* then *I* will protect *you* .”

He chuckled, pushing his straight hair back, “You will never— *you will need to train a thousand more years to beat me* .”

Green eyes glared at him, “Then I will train for a thousand more years!”

He ruffled her hair, “See you then, small child.”

She pouted at him and stomped out of his room.

He laughed before yelling back, “Why are you covered in bandages?”

She stomped back in.

“I got in a fight!” She yelled at him, waving her hands around angrily.

“Did you win?” He sat on his bed with his book.

She angrily came over, “I would’ve.” She threw herself across his sheets. “If his mom didn't step in.”

He winced sympathetically, fingering open the page, “What did she say?” He remembered the last boy's mother, she had attempted to get into her own fight with mom. A ninja separated them and had them all apologise and they never went to that part of the village since *(he was very proud of his mom—she should assert her authority more often)*.

She shook her head, “She just wanted to know what happened.”

He peeked at her, “That's it?”

She nodded, wincing briefly, “Then mom made me apologise and then she made *him* apologise.”

His eyebrow squinted, “Sounds suspicious.”

“It was!” she yelled, “Then her puppy showed up and her hand glowed green and she mentioned a ninja school—”

Black eyes narrowed, “It was her who brought it up?”

Her pink hair wooshed around her head, “Yep! She said I would make a good ninja!”

Indoctrination, he scowled, “Why did she say that?”

She pouted at him, “Because I said I would kill him.”

He nodded, “Good, always finish your fights or they will come back and demand you go to trial for winning.”

“That's what I said!” She agreed loudly, “Tsume-sama said that I should be a ninja after I said that.”

“Of course she did,” He pulled the book up higher, “It's the best way to think in a fight.”

All killers have to think the same, don't they? Rarely is there a privilege to be the bigger person.....only when you are the strongest can you give mercy.

He blinked, “Puppy’?” He recalled.

She gasped, “Puppy! And he talked, you would have loved it—he wore an eyepatch too!”

His brain froze, “He talked?”

“Talked!” She parroted.

“Eyepatch?”

“Eyepatch!” She jumped up.

“Where can I get one?” he questioned.

She shrugged.

He sighed, *demon child* .

“Aren't you excited?” His father slid his noodles over to him.

He picked at them half-heartedly, “No.”

“What?” His mother slurped her juice, “You love fighting, you keep asking us to buy you a battle axe.”

His pink hair fell around his face, “That's for personal reasons—I'm just not normally being woken up and forced to visit some taijutsu jounin to *live* .”

His mom scoffed, “Don't be so dramatic, you will be fine.”

“Fine?” He drawled, “If I fight well enough they might make me become a ninja.”

His mom cut in, “And why don't you wanna become a ninja? You love reading those books and defending your sister and pretend fighting in your room.”

“Because,” His father replied, “He's going to become a merchant.”

He nodded his slightly pink face.

“Couldn't he be both?” His sister piped up, “Be a fighting merchant.”

“No,” He said, cutting both his parents off, “Being a ninja is a full-time job—the village wants more ninjas than merchants.”

His parents rolled their eyes.

Father cleared his throat, “We will have to be leaving soon, Ren.”

He put down his almost-filled bowl, “I'm full.”

They scoffed, “You barely ate.”

He stood and walked to the door, “I will take an apple.”

His sister sprang and ran to the kitchen and back, in her hand a bright red apple. She dumped it into his hand and latched onto his leg.

He shook his leg, “Goodbye child—let go.”

She looked up at him with a smile, “Bye-bye! Tell me what happened afterwards!”

He scoffed, “Only if there's something to tell.”

She accepted this answer and hugged their father instead. He patted her back and said bye to mom.

Walking to the training spot was long, as it was on the other side of the village. They were to meet with his new sensei at Training Ground Eight. He is apparently very capable, and one of the village's *‘best jounin’*. He supposedly specifically asked to be his sensei and wanted to work with the boy who couldn't use ninjutsu. As a challenge probably.

They made their way past other training children, red-eyed kids, pale-eyed kids, and kids with animals. They were all older than him, at least ten years old. Many didn't have teachers with them; it was mostly just teams of three or four many of who had weapons of some kind. He was not one who judged but this village really left these kids to their devices? He remembered getting constantly hurt without someone to help him or teach him what he was doing, and looking at these kids many of them were *not* well taught. They would probably never get past the basics or they would die uselessly.

God, It's only nine.

Their arrival at the training ground was met with silence, as in, no one was there. His father fiddled with his fingers, looking around for his new teacher.

Techno walked into the middle of the field. It was a massive empty space, with trees on the side. Like all of the other grounds.

His father hesitatingly spoke up, “Is he supposed to—”
“DYNAMIC ENTRY!”

A green blur flew in front of him. A man with painfully shiny hair and the ugliest outfit he'd ever seen.

He's worse than Dream.

The man was as loud as Tommy on his worst days, he was also....strangely.... *handsome*? He had a weirdly defined face at least. Nice cheekbones and stuff.

The loud man posed in front of him, teeth shining, “GOOD MORNING NEW STUDENT! IT IS I, KONOHA'S MOST POWERFUL GREEN BEAST!”

It is taking all of his manpower to not laugh.

“I'M GLAD TO BE AIDING THE YOUNG YOUTH IN NEED!” He stuck his thumb up.

Techno blinked, “You're my Sensei?”

He seemed to sparkle, “I AM HONOURED TO TEACH ANOTHER TAIJUTSU STUDENT!”

His father attempted to step in, “So you are—”

“HELLO, YOU MUST BE HIS FATHER! I AM SO PROUD TO BE HELPING HIM LEARN AND UNDERSTAND HIS BODY!”

Techno was going to *crack* . His cheeks hurt holding in his laughter. He was, no doubt, as red as an apple.

Dad stuttered, “Yes I am, what is your name—”

“MAITO GAI AT YOUR SERVICE!” He bowed to his father, who politely bowed back. Sensei Gai turned to him and bowed his head, he seemed significantly calmer.

“You must be Ren Haruno, my new student!” He proclaimed loudly, no longer yelling.

Techno's face was still burning as he bowed back, saying nothing.

“I would like to talk to you alone.” His father stated, gesturing away.

Sensei Gai blinked at him before smiling blindingly brightly, “Of course!”

Techno would *not* like to say he started laughing the second they walked away.

The Green Beast of Konoha!

Chapter Notes

this was one of the harder chapters surprisingly.

Gai was surprisingly cautious.

He was thrilled to be working with another child in their springtime of youth. When he volunteered to take the boys training for his health, he was warned that teaching a student with such a similar ailment would cause unnecessary *ideas* .

He was not an idiot like people think, he understood they didn't want him connecting with a boy who will probably never even become a ninja— *an unnecessary connection with a civilian*. Or the fact that the boy was so young, not even six. A child in all but name. He knew what this village thought of children.

He did love his village, but when you get older you come to understand things you would not have known when you were young.

And to teach a boy so young and impressionable...Is an honour. His own Eternal Rival was a child when he became a ninja—a tragedy of youth. And for him to be teaching one so young, he can see Kakashi, he knows that he can not fail Ren Haruno. For him and Kakashi.

He was told of little Ren accidentally. He overheard medics speaking of it when he was in the hospital after a particularly terrible mission. He was resting and doctors are horrible gossip. They spoke quietly of a *poor* boy who had been dying after his chakra built up too much. They talked of getting a chunin to teach the boy taijutsu for his illness, for his inability to use ninjutsu. It was not the same as him, but it was similar enough.

He had requested the mission before it could even be assigned.

Kakashi had not questioned him, he just warned him.

“Be careful with kids—I have worked with a few in my time.” Kakashi hummed.

He looked at him, “What can you mean, Eternal Rival?”

“I mean...” He put down his book, “Be careful—you don't want to get attached only for them to *die* .”

Gai stared at Kakashi, “He's only a boy—not yet six.”

Kakashi gazed at him with his eerie silver eye, "I was only five when I became a soldier, I could've died anytime after that and I would only be a casualty." He tapped his fingers. "I've had a few young ones die on missions, they are no longer children when they can fight back."

He worried for his rival sometimes.

He would be meeting the boy in a few hours.

He woke especially early this morning, a proud four on the dot. He had run the whole village backwards ten times before it was five. Konoha gained steam around six, so breakfast would have to wait. He went over everything he knew about his new Talented Youth.

He was only five but tall for his age.

He had long pink hair that was around his shoulder blades.

He had pale skin with dark eyes.

Strong features, with apparent eyebrows and cheekbones.

Apparently solemn, little expression

Very clever.

He found himself thinking of Kakashi again. They sounded so similar. Though he could never picture his Rival with long pink hair.

Six passed easily enough, breakfast was delicious and nutritious.

Seven he found Ebisu and asked him about how to deal with it. He told him to teach him and tell him what to do, he doesn't really think that will work, but he's glad to have asked!

By the time eight rolled around he was standing in the Training Grounds they agreed to meet up in. He was practising his entrance, whether he would surprise attack him or surprise pose in front of him....he decided to pose.

When nine came around he was very ready to meet his little student. He was coming with a family member, and they would be agreeing to other times and practices. He hoped they all got along.

His first impression of Ren was better than he thought.

Little Ren was still a child and laughed at his behaviour. A little boy laughing at someone acting silly made him pleased he wasn't like Kakashi. He was a little monotone and didn't seem to like people seeing his emotions, but that doesn't seem as horrible as having no emotions at all.

He was very striking with bright bubblegum pink hair combed into a neat ponytail. His eyes were so dark they looked red in the sunlight, and he had pale eyelashes making his eyes look startlingly dark. He had pale eyebrows and thin lips, high cheekbones on such a youthful face. He wore a red shirt with white tucked under and grey-wrapped pants.

Visually he was no ninja. He was tall, from what he can tell. Broad shoulders that he had, no doubt, he would grow into a tall strong man. With long fingers and wide palms, he will do well with Taijutsu.

The father was similar to his child, tall and broad and pink. He was far more nervous than his son or his son was just much better at hiding it.

Standing behind some trees away from the boy, he turned to his father, “What do you wish to talk of?”

“I am Hizashi and my wife is Mebuki,” He swallowed, “We live in the civilian district and we have a stall at the town centre—I want you to know in case of any emergency or if something happens.”

Gai straightened, “I am glad to have this knowledge. Is this all?”

Hizashi shook his head, “Ren is—Ren is very smart but he tends to think the worst of things and he has a love of stories....tragedies. But he is still a little boy and he has a hard time understanding people; he can be...awkward and rude if he doesn't understand. Be patient with him.” He finished.

Gai smiled gratefully, “Thank you, Hizashi. I appreciate you telling me this and I will be patient with him or I will hop through the entire village backwards!” His teeth sparkled.

Hizashi blinked brown eyes, “All right, I will say goodbye to him. Do I have to come to pick him up afterwards?”

“No need! I will happily escort him to his home.” He answered

“Yeah—okay,” He turned, “Just be careful with him, he can get overwhelmed with people.”

Gai vowed to take this to heart.

Ren wasn't laughing anymore when they came back.

He stared at the pond nearby, seemingly lost in thought, though Gai could see him periodically squeezing his fist. His father walked over and stood next to him, quietly talking to him. He watched him put his hand on his shoulder with no reaction. He eventually leaned down and hugged him, tucking his head to his stomach. Then Ren turned to him saying something that brought a smile to his father's face.

His father left though he was constantly looking back. Ren stared after his father long after they were gone.

Gai came over and sat in front of the pouty boy.

“Hello little student, I am your sensei, Gai Maito.” He gestured to the pond, “Do you know why they have this here?”

The boy's unnerving red gaze moved to him, “Fighting *with* water.”

He nodded, “And for fighting *on* the water—ninjas can walk on water with their chakra.”

“I could,” Ren added awkwardly, “with my chakra—I can still use it.”

“Can *you* walk on water?” He pushed.

Ren looked at him, “Why?”

Gai chuckled, “You are not a genin, but I want you fully capable if anything were to happen.”

“I could,” Ren finally said, avoiding eye contact, “No chakra leaves my body and it's easy to move it around.”

Gai stood and walked to the pond, putting one foot in front of the other until he was atop the middle. He turned to Ren and held out his hand, “It's not deep at all!”

Ren stared at him, clenching his fist again, “I don't want to get wet.”

Gai smiled at this childish response, “I will pick you up if you can't stand.”

Ren walked slowly, he came to the edge of the small pond. He placed a single foot on the water, he stared at it for a long period. A few minutes later he confidently put his other foot on the water. He did not fall in but he didn't move.

Ren looked up at him, “I don't think I can walk anymore.”

The training was okay.

Ren had an understanding of fighting that could in no way come from books. He also tried to stand like he was holding a weapon, something high up, an axe or sword. He might do better with one really.

They went over the basics. Then he had him hit him as hard as he could, left arm, right arm, left leg, right leg. He hit hard enough for a loud thump and ‘*wisssh*’ of noise to pass by him. Gai stumbled back a little when he went for his left leg, arguably his weakest part. *Smart* .

The boy would clearly suit a weapon, he was fast with plenty of strength.

Maybe he will take him to get one.

He learned many things from this session, Ren clearly did not trust him and that Ren was...a prodigy. A cursed word, but the boy was too good, too fast and too smart to be anything else.

He was reminded starkly of His Eternal Rival again.

The chakra clearly impacted him, he was healing fast, stronger and more agile than even chunin.

The training lasted four hours, he thought about taking him out for lunch but decided his little student probably wants to go.

He walked Ren home. Ren gazed at the world as they walked, taking note of birds and every dog. He seemed to have patterns he's grown used to, counting trees and people who walk past. He didn't want to disrupt him.

He stopped when they came to the street. Letting Ren walk straight home. They awkwardly said goodbye and went their separate ways. He could hear yelling from a girl inside and a long sigh from Ren, it made him smile.

He looked forward to a long and prosperous journey!

Technoblade

Chapter Notes

short chapter, thought it was needed before shit starts happening.

Techno was taking an L.

He was saying that with full confidence.

He doesn't take L's except for *this* time.

Because no matter how much he says he doesn't want to fight, he never felt more alive than training with Gai-sensei. He was very retrospective as a person. Very attuned to himself. And he sees that fighting without Chat has made his training far easier. He does truly miss the millions of souls of the dead yelling at him. But he's never fought before without blood chanting in his head and it felt truly freeing.

Sakura was probably the only one closest to him that noticed his new-found-old love for fighting. He doesn't really tell his family much about what goes on at the training. His sister is truly too perceptive to *not* notice his sudden interest. She herself tries to train all the time, especially with the new academy she's going to (*Ugh, why join the power when you can fight it?!).*

Gai himself was very strange—he guessed that from the start—but training with him was exhilarating. He was extremely strong and a master of taijutsu, he felt like Chat would have loved him, after all, they were fond of Tommy and Sensei is *way* smarter than him.

They fought in the morning and into the afternoon. He was shocked into silence the first time Sensei asked him if he wanted to have lunch. He in his shock said yes, and he found himself eating delicious ramen. Throughout the meal, Sensei told a story of him and his Eternal Rival — *he had flashbacks to another loud green man* —and how they once both ended up in full body casts after jumping off cliffs. The goal was apparently to see who could stop themselves furthest down, which neither did. Thus the hospital.

It was probably the first time there was unhappiness, he wanted to compare war stories. Sit down and tell the tales of being Technoblade, the god of slaughter, and a philosopher with a love of gold. His collection of books was incomprehensible, Phil was there flying around with Wilbur and Tommy. He had stories this world would never have or understand. He would never see his family—

Ahem .

He breathed in deeply.

Gai had seen his drop in happiness at the time. He escorted the now unresponsive boy home. Dropping him off into his father's arms and leaving. His father laid him down and tucked him in. His sister was worried, quietly asking if something happened. She didn't know what was wrong and he couldn't really tell her what. It felt like his chest had been cracked, his ribs tugged out and torn. His heart barely beating was destroyed. He'd never felt such pain, not when Tommy betrayed him or when Wilbur died. Because he knew he would see them again, they would be okay. He didn't even feel this when *he* died.

Maybe his pain was catching up with him, the voices usually chased away most emotions in the past. They screamed over any feelings or pushed him to anger. Did he ever have a coping mechanism besides destroying?

Was that why he craved fighting so much? Was he ever truly okay?

I miss my family.

He was better. Eating an apple on the roof of his home, looking over their neighbourhood. Ninja ran past him, and a few stopped to see him. A boy with pink hair swinging his feet over the edge. He chewed through his apple wishing he had a golden one. The sun was setting and people were heading home.

He had had training earlier that day with Gai. They were working with shuriken and throwing knives. He had good aim but he was not used to the small tools. Senbon was cool (*pog*) he thinks Wilbur would have liked them. He was already trigger-fingered. He definitely would have liked them, especially after hearing about a ninja who could throw them between his teeth. Would've been better than smoking.

He's been trying to tell Gai he wants a weapon—sometimes he forgets he isn't actually a ninja.

His sixth birthday was coming up. As was winter, obviously. His parents were very excited, they planned on taking him on a trip out of Konoha. A chance to explore the new world, he would also be getting a library card. As a six-year-old, he could get his own and not use his parents, and he planned on *raiding* that place. He hoped Gai would bring him to get a weapon—god he was desperate, he wanted the warmth of the Axe of Peace.

He misses his animals these days, Steve and Carl. All of his wolves and hounds, hunting his enemies. He still wants a ninken. He needs one really, he remembers it being emotionally healthy or something...

He recently heard of Summons, different animals in another realm that selected people to attach themselves to. He compared it to Phil with his crows. While having ninken was more like Ghostbur with Friend. It made him think of Tommy and his Henry. Or Dream and Spirit. They had this connection no one could help but mock. Maybe they understood something no one could see.

He thought of them constantly now. It was like a switch had been flicked. He saw them in everything, instead of him laughing, it was painful. Mourning. He wanted to be at peace. But knowing he might never see any of his family and friends and even rivals was terrifying. His anxiety turned up to eleven. He was more paranoid than ever. He didn't like leaving his sister alone, even at the playground.

His parents were worried, they thought the training was causing him distress. He couldn't actually tell them about his pain and fear, he would have to deal with it alone.

To mourn .

The Rising Petal

Chapter Notes

long chapter!

tried honorifics wouldn't be a Naruto story without them!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Sakura was going to become a ninja.

She was six years old and that meant she could take the entry course to join the ninja academy. She would not graduate *early* —Ren's words still rang in her. She didn't want to become a genin until all of her peers did. She didn't want to be used because of her age. And she wanted to be the same age as her teammates (*although he didn't say anything about becoming chunin early*).

She had been practising all of the academy's subjects and classes. Her chakra was too small to work with, but her practice made her perfect. She had read through as many books as possible. She worked with Ren on her Taijutsu which he told her would be her best subject.

They arrived bright and early at the seeing. It was crowded with hundreds of parents and their kids. There were more civilians than clan kids. The clan families were avoided, they moved around them like plagues while also staring at them in awe.

She clenched her mother's hand tighter, swallowing her dry throat. Her brother stood to her right, staring down at everyone like they were not worth his time. She reached out and grabbed his tight fist. He turned to her, pink hair pulled into a neat plait on his head, her hair was the same. Ren looked nobler than anyone here, hair done and outfit perfectly set, he had a small throwing axe strapped to his waist. He looked like a ninja.

“Where do we go?” She looked up at her mother nervously.

Ren, who was almost as tall as mother already, pointed to the right, “Civilian check-in is next to the ninja with sunglasses.”

Mom nodded determinedly, “Alright—Ren, if any parents get in our way—kill them.”

He nodded decisively.

They shoved their way past the hundreds of civilians hoping to get their kids in the program. They came to what looked like the line and waited, Sakura couldn't see much of anything, too

small. She quietly hoped she had Ren's height and not their mother's. Especially once she becomes a ninja.

She was going to be a ninja.

The line moved surprisingly fast, multiple families were sent away. She tightened her hands, mom and Ren squeezing back soothingly.

The family in front of them was now first, they spoke to a man with a senbon in his mouth, he nodded to them pointed left then straight and handed over some paper. He had a small smile.

Her mother placed papers on the table. She smiled at him.

“Mebuki Haruno signing in with her daughter Sakura Haruno,” She said their house numbers.

He looked through their things nodding, “All seems well—do you know where you are going?” His eyes slid to Ren. His senbon moved around his mouth.

Mother shook her head, “First-time ninja parents.”

A few emotions went across his face before simply nodding and giving them the same directions as the family before. His eyes darted to Ren quickly before moving them along.

Mother pushed her way past everyone while Ren glared at anyone who came too close. They made their way to the academy. Walking past smaller crowds of families, there were a lot more clan kids in here. Some kids stared at them as they walked past, she tucked her head down, shielding her blushing face. She wondered if it was the hair.

Ren clenched her fist, “Don't look down, you have nothing to be embarrassed about.”

She peeked at him beneath her lashes, “Why do they stare then?”

“Because,” He smirked at her, “We look fantastic.”

Her outfit was chosen by Ren. She knew he liked clothes and how they looked but it wasn't until he laid all her clothes and her shoes and her jewellery that she realised he *loved* clothes. She was wearing pants and a nice shirt. It was red and grey and Ren had given her his gold ring he found. It was tied around her neck with a chain. She hoped she looked like a ninja. She stood up taller.

They went to the middle room in the hall. Other families stood around, her mother bent down to her and fixed her collar.

“Just go sit in one of those chairs,” She pointed to a line of chairs, “They will call you back one by one and we will be right here the whole time.”

She breathed in deeply, nodding, she looked to Ren who nodded to her.

Sakura turned and walked to the chairs. She sat on the end by herself and waited. But she didn't have to wait long because someone sat next to her and sighed deep in their chest.

"Hello..." A long drawn-out voice said.

She furrowed her brow and peeked at the voice. A boy sat next to her slouched with arms crossed over his chest. He had his hair pulled up tightly into a pineapple shape. He stared at her with hawk-like eyes.

He sighed again, "My mother told me to sit next to you because you looked lonely."

She swung her feet faster, "I'm not lonely, I'm just nervous."

"That's what I said," He mimicked her swinging legs, "But she just nagged me over anyway."

She hummed, "Why are you talking to me then?"

"Because she is still looking over here," He said bluntly.

She *oohed* , "What's your name?"

He sighed again, "Shikamaru Nara."

She slowed her swinging feet and he matched it, "Sakura Haruno."

He nodded, hair barely moving, "I guess we will be classmates if you get in."

" *If I get in?* " she asked sharply, "I'm getting in! What about *you* ?"

His feet stopped moving, "You're a civilian, aren't you?"

"So?" She stopped her feet, "I'm still going to be a ninja just like you."

He scrunched his face up muttering '*troublesome*' under his breath, "But...because my dad is a ninja, I'm automatically in."

She shook her head, "That doesn't make sense."

He shrugged, "It's what I noticed."

Looking around the room she noticed he was *kind of* right, all the clan kids looked calm, barely nervous versus the civilians, who were sweating or even muttering.

"Plus," Shikamaru continued, "Mom wanted me to come over because you didn't look crazy nervous, only quiet."

She didn't answer, still looking around the room in disbelief at what her young mind was seeing. Even the clan's parents did not look nervous at all. They were talking to each other ignoring the civilian parents. She turned to Ren, eyes wide with shock. He cocked his head at her, gesturing with his chin to the boy next to him mouthing words at her, '*is he bothering you?*'

She shook her head. She never felt such anger, it made her feel hopeless.

“Sorry,” Her head snapped to Shikamaru, “Didn't mean to upset you—I was just answering your question.” He knocked his feet together, staring down.

She swallowed feeling slightly bad, “It's okay, I just didn't know.”

He looked back up at her, “I don't think my parents know that I know—it's just something I noticed with my dad.”

She looked to her brother again, mouthing, *‘I will tell you later.’*

“Your brother?” Shikamaru asked.

She nodded, “He was worried.”

He hummed, “The tests will start soon.”

She began swinging her feet again, “How do you know?”

“The room is almost full and fewer people are coming in,” He stated as a fact.

“Oh,” She went quiet, and he followed suit.

She knew he was right, there were few people coming in now, and all the chairs were almost full. She couldn't tell if there were any teachers as all adults looked the same.

“Are you a student here?” She turned her head to the voice, a man was standing next to Ren looking down at him.

Her mother had her hand on his shoulders, “O-Oh no he's not.”

He cocked an eyebrow, “Is he going to be?”

Ren answered dryly, “No, I'm here for my sister.”

“Ah,” He looked down at his sheet, “Have you already graduated?”

Mom looked uncomfortable, “No—we are civilians.”

His white hair lay on his shoulder, “Civilians shouldn't carry weapons like that.” He gestured to the small hand axe.

“It's from Sensei,” Her brother interrupted, looking more cramped than mom, “It was a gift.”

The man looked confused, “Why do you—”

“He has a medical problem,” Mom finally snapped, “So he trains with a teacher for physical exercise.”

He looked doubtful but nodded and excused himself. She stared at her tense brother and annoyed-looking mother. Mother massaged Ren's shoulder with her one hand, leaning down

and whispering something to him. He didn't relax, and his eyes floated to hers, they held eye contact before rolling his eyes and mouthing to her, *'it's okay.'*

“Why was he bothering your family?” Shikamaru spoke up.

“He wanted to know who Ren was,” She responded.

“Ren?” Your brother?” He prodded.

She nodded, and noticed the room was being closed, “It's starting.”

He sighed leaning back in the chair, “Troublesome.”

The test was simple, they took a basic paper test filling out easy answers anyone who pays attention would notice. Once that was over they would pull them into a backroom one by one to see if they could use their chakra well or if they could use any jutsus. (*She quietly wondered how any of them would know any Jutsu*). Then a basic taijutsu test. Finally, they would announce who was joining the school in a few months and get prepared. But that would only get told in a few weeks. (*She thought of how clan kids will do compared to civilian kids*).

The paper test was easy questions about herself more than anything else.

Do you like training?

Do you enjoy playing ninja?

Do you have any special skills?

They were all easy to answer. Shikamaru must have agreed because he took a nap in between answering questions.

The test was finished quickly, and they picked up all the papers. They were given to two ninjas sitting at the front who sorted all of them differently.

They told the room that they were going to begin taking kids and after they were sent back out they could all leave. They would tell everyone the results in the following weeks.

Kids whose last names started with ‘A’ were pulled first, so she figures it was alphabetical. Which means she was up soon.

She swung her feet quickly, trying to remember all of her forms and hand signs.

They came to the ‘G’s fast, and she held her breath.

“Haruno, Sakura,” A man with a scar on his nose called.

She stood, calming her shaking hands and peeking at her family, they smiled at her.

Sakura made her way past the scarred man who smiled at her. He pushed the door open for her and followed her in.

In the room was a woman with no pupils, some teachers and a man with blonde hair in a ponytail. They were all sitting, talking to each other. They quieted when they saw her. The scarred man sat on the end and announced her presence.

“This is Sakura Haruno—civilian,” He told them.

He turned to her, “Hyuga-sama will be looking at your chakra points, she is going to make sure you have no issues.”

She nodded, turning to the woman, “Please close your eyes like you're meditating.”

Sakura nodded, closing her eyes and breathing deeply, pulling at her chakra to settle it.

“Okay.”

She opened her eyes, shocked it took so fast before her attention was pulled to the blonde man.

He smiled at her, “I am going to check your mind.”

She nodded again, staying quiet fiddling with her fingers.

He kneeled slightly looking into her eyes. Nothing seemed to happen before he pulled back smiling at her again.

Finally, the three others asked her to perform a punch. They held out a hand and told her to punch him. She nodded, gearing herself up. Her chakra would make this punch the most important factor.

She got into position and launched a punch at the hand, grunting. She felt satisfied when his hand moved backwards from the force of the hit.

They nodded at her, thanking her for trying out and briefly mentioning her ‘*will of fire.*’

The scarred man escorted her out and praised her for her punch, which she blushed at.

She made her way to her family happy for it to be over. They stood, mother’s arm falling off Ren’s shoulder. She hugged Ren tightly, and he awkwardly patted her head. Mom rubbed her shoulder and they all left the room. She did turn to see Shikamaru watching them, she waved to him and mouthed ‘*good luck.*’ He waved back and mouthed ‘*thanks.*’

The building was much less full compared to before and she could see some adults outside the academy waiting. They patiently waited in line to receive more papers whilst she told them about how amazing she did. She was bragging about her punch to Ren when her name was called.

“Sakura!”

They all turned to see a boy with fluffy brown hair and red marks on his face running over, followed by a woman.

She blinked, “Kiba-kun?”

He stood next to them, wearing a cream-coloured shirt. He looked between them, “So you're joining the academy?”

“I just finished my tests and then we are getting lunch and going home,” She recounted.

He grinned, “I just finished too—mom wants to talk with Hana’s teachers.”

“Hello, Mebuki,” Tsume called, “Glad to see you lot here.”

“Hi Tsume-sama,” Sakura waved, “Nice to see you.”

“Hello little Sakura,” Her grin was all teeth, “You are looking very strong.”

She blushed and looked down, “Thank you.”

“And you,” He turned to Ren, “Must be the brother.”

He stood there awkwardly, “Yeah.” He said nothing else.

Tsume did not pause, “I'm happy you took my advice—you will be a great ninja.” She was looking at Sakura.

“Yeah!” Kiba piped in, “If you still hit as hard as you used to, you’ll be fine!”

She blushed, and her mother chuckled, “She hits much harder these days.”

“Good!” Tsume tapped her fingers, “I'm happy for you—but I'm afraid we must get going.”

Kiba was visibly disappointed.

She tried to cheer him up, “We will see each other at school.”

“Oh,” He perked up, “Yeah! See you then!”

Tsume chuckled, her hair standing up on all ends, “See you then.”

The Inuzuka clan left.

Her brother raised a brow at her, “Who are they?”

“Someone I punched!” She stated proudly.

Her mother groaned, “Sakura...”

Ren nodded to her, “You could take him.” Her mother groaned again while Ren laughed.

She was going to be a ninja.

Chapter End Notes

how does the schooling system even work???

what age do they join???

Im choosing six because if I was raising baby ninja, I would want them to have at least six years of practice.

Twin Rivals

Chapter Notes

first two man chapter.
short one tho

Ren was getting stronger, Gai could proudly say.

They have been together for a few months now. Working on taijutsu and gaining a bond. Gai was happy to say that Ren was as strong as a chunin. The now seven-year-old was very capable, at least in taijutsu. He needed someone to help train him against anything other than taijutsu. Little Ren could walk on water and trees these days and he was very capable with his small axe but he has never fought against someone with typical ninja abilities. Ren's healing was also prominent—it was as strong as a jinchuuriki's. But he needed to be tested against genjutsu and ninjutsu.

Which is why he was here with Kakashi.

“No.”

“Please Eternal Rival!” He begged, “My sweet youth student needs you to help him!”

Kakashi didn't even look up from his book, “I'm not fighting your seven-year-old.”

“He is as strong as a chunin!” Gai told him.

“I don't like children,” Kakashi replied, “Especially cute little students of my Rivals.”

“Don't like children?” Gai was aghast, “Since when?”

Kakashi sighed, putting down his book, “Since the Hokage has seen fit to start assigning me teams.”

Gai winced, “I know what you say—but Ren is different, we've been working together for a year! He is not like those who come right out of the academy.” He reminisced where he stood.

Kakashi stared at him with one cool eye, “It doesn't matter what he's like because I don't want to be the one who messes him up.”

Gai let out a sob, “My good and noble Rival you have nothing to fear, my sweet boy is surrounded by love with his family and me!”

Kakashi let out a long breath, “You are not going to leave me alone until I agree to see him will you?”

Gai smiled, teeth sparkling, “Of course, Kakashi!”

Kakashi visually deflated.

So now they are here. Standing at his and Ren’s typical training ground, waiting for his youthful student to appear. Kakashi was extremely stressed though he hid it behind a cool and book-reading demeanour. Gai knew his Rival had problems with kids, not because he didn’t like them, but because he only saw a different pair of kids.

Rin and Obito.

He only saw those he lost in the people around him. He couldn’t work with kids too familiar—Ren *will* remind him of him when he was younger. Young Kakashi and Ren are very similar in personality. He hoped he saw the difference between them, Ren’s not cold because he thinks he’s better than anyone, but because he was too awkward to actually express himself. Ren’s colouring will help, Ren looks little like anyone. He’s very unique. Not a baby Kakashi.

They both knew the moment Ren appeared. Kakashi slouched even more and tensed. Gai hoped his youthful student would not be too surprised to see Kakashi—he had told him stories of his good friend.

Ren came around the side, seeing Kakashi he paused for a moment before continuing on. He stopped in front of him. Bowing low, and straightening Ren did not hesitate.

“Sensei, who is that?” He pointed at the practically bent-over Kakashi.

“That,” He crouched to his level, “Is my Eternal Rival.”

Ren narrowed his eyes at the silver-haired man, “Why is he here?”

“He,” He put a hand on his shoulder, “Is going to help you fight against everything I can’t teach you.”

”He looks extremely uncomfortable,” Ren said bluntly, not typically the observation kids notice. He’s seen plenty of kids see Kakashi and assume he’s lazy and uncaring. Not uncomfortable.

He’s so proud of his youthful student.

“I am not uncomfortable,” Kakashi sounded offended, “I am *completely* relaxed.”

Ren snorted before looking surprised at his own action.

“Gai,” Kakashi said, affronted, “I thought you said he was polite.”

Gai grinned pleased at the folding, “He is! You are, after all, very uncomfortable.”

Kakashi made a noise of protest, “Why would I be uncomfortable? I have no reason to be!”

“What are we going to do?” Ren asked, instead of answering any of his questions.

Gai turned to his Rival, “How do you want to start?”

Kakashi could be a fantastic teacher— *if he wanted to be*.

Kakashi teaches his ANBU, and friends when needing help. He was patient and cool, rarely cracking. He was, of course, powerful and strategic. Intelligence was never lacking and he never strayed from giving advice or sharing jutsu.

So yes, Kakashi *could* be a great teacher.

But Kakashi was scared to be.

He didn't want to be Minato. Minato deserved better than him to pretend to be Sensei. He hated being the next generation of team seven. He saw it for what it was. A curse.

Time only made it worse, going from the legendary Sanin to *Friend-Killer Kakashi* .

It should've ended after Minato. Have someone unrelated teach a different generation instead of desperately chasing the one success. It has only been getting worse each time. It was plagued with death and traitors—it doesn't matter how strong they were, how powerful they became because they weren't *here* .

No, Kakashi was not a good teacher.

He has taught people younger than him all his life. Or lived a life with those far older.

He resided at a memorial more than any home, he lived strictly in the past.

He's had people attempting to pull him forward or keep him back. Tell him they would have wanted him to live on, but they were *dead* .

Kakashi was a horrible teacher.

But

He really didn't want to disappoint Gai.

Gai was his closest...friend. Someone who helped keep him alive after Minato and Rin and Kushina and even Obito. He never walked away or died.

He saw Gai when he heard of Ren. Hearing of someone similar to him, actively suffering because of his condition. The boy was as young as him when he became a genin. A little kid who has to be helped specifically in taijutsu. It made him wonder if fate was real. It was all so perfect. And the fact that he was even allowed to take the mission for a chunin.

He took being a teacher more seriously than most things. Gai talked like a parent about their children, bringing his little student up in every situation. So for he to ask him to help teach his precious child. It felt like trust.

Kakashi will try to be a good teacher.

Even if he isn't going to teach Ren any of his techniques, he will teach him how to live in every possible situation. Because Kakashi had survived far longer than he should have.

Prophet of Voices

Chapter Notes

blood?

Techno grunted as another fireball flew past him.

He dove around a tree, hiding to breathe for a second. He thumbed his axe, waiting for a moment. He heard rustling to his right. He jumped up the tree and paused on a branch, he calmed, suppressing his chakra slowly.

“Not fast enough,” A low cocky voice said next to his face.

He turned quickly, throwing his axe right for his face. He jumped off the tree at the same time. Hurling towards the ground he rolled. Huffing, he ducked past a hand coming from up high.

He landed on his hand and legs, turning to see his attacker. They stared at each other before he launched himself at the other's legs. He pulled a shuriken, chunking it at his chest and attempting to throw him off.

Blood...

He fumbled, and the throw turned. Not even hitting his body. In an instant, he's grabbed and held with a knife at his throat.

“Dead.”

He let go and turned around.

“What happened?” Kakashi-sensei asked, walking around picking up tools thrown.

Techno furrowed his brow, before shaking his head, “I don't know...”

Kakashi looked at him, eye squinted, “You don't know?” You were doing fine and you missed so badly, it wasn't anywhere near me...and you don't know what happened?”

Techno shrugged, thrown off, he went quiet.

Kakashi sighed, handing him his things, he ruffled his pulled-back hair, “Let's just get you home—then you can tell Gai how you did.”

Techno nodded, not paying much attention. He walked back with Kakashi in silence, the crowds were busy, clustered and loud. He could feel a headache coming on. He tried to focus on his thoughts, searching for what he heard.

Was that Chat?

It had been a while since hearing Chat, he was already nine. He hasn't heard his voices in years. No shouting or donations and he hasn't killed anyone in this world. Was he imagining the quiet call of blood?

They arrived at his home, with Kakashi declining an offer from his parents to stay for lunch as Sakura would be arriving home soon.

She's doing great in school, she's been getting into fewer fights now that she has a more acceptable outlet. She's made friends with that one kid she got into a fight with years ago and she is starting Kunochi lessons this year, so their mother hopes she will make some girl friends. They still practise together, showing off techniques they've learned. She's also come to understand his condition. The fact that she will always have an advantage over him. But he immediately destroyed that idea the first time she tried to use an academy jutsu in their fight when he tracked her chakra and tackled her.

She would have to be a lot better if she thought she could use something like that in a fight and win.

He went up to his room in silence, not saying anything to his family. He laid down in bed, his book collection was overflowing now, spilling onto the floor. He leaned over and picked one up with no thoughts.

He flipped it over, checking the front, *The Descent of Madara Uchiha*.

He laid it out in front of him. Flipping through the pages of his marked notes and comments, before coming to one of the last pages. It told the story of the last fight between Madara and Hashirama.

He ran his finger along his words.

Sounds like Tommy and Tubbo against Dream?

He wasn't lying, the story of madness and greed getting out of hand. But he knew how his story went—Dream lived and was held prisoner and tortured. It made him wonder why Madara did what he did. All the stories talk of madness and envy for power and they say the same about Dream but he knows why it started, friendship and anger—a feeling of betrayal from people he thought respected him.

It got worse from there in ways no one expected, and he had to be stopped. But suffering as he did, will always be cruel. Punishment never means torture especially when it will just make the person worse. He wonders what happened to Dream after he got him out of prison. He vanished into thin air, and no matter what Tommy said—he never returned. They knew he was still out there; he was the Admin—the world would fall apart if he wasn't holding it

together. Or perhaps he did die, after all, the Egg gained power, and basically destroyed everything and everyone. Techno died from the Egg.

Dream should have been there. It doesn't matter how many people hated him or feared him—he was the Admin, he could halt any corruption. He quietly wondered if Dream just left them all to die, maybe he didn't care about the Egg or them and figured if they wanted him dead they could all go down. Maybe, maybe not.

Someone knocked on his door interrupting his thought. He closed the book and stacked it with the others. Another knock and a call.

“Ren—can I come in?” His sister called.

He thought about it, “No.”

“Okay,” His door opened and a small pink figure came in.

He sighed and his sister lay down next to him.

“Did your teacher do something?” She asked.

He let out a groan, “No, I just got distracted and I failed another spar.”

“Iruka-sensei says you can't fail a spar,” She replied.

“Iruka-sensei has obviously never disappointed his teacher,” His head was pounding.

She looked at him with big green eyes, “Did he hit you really hard?”

“No,” He rubbed his temples, “I just have a headache.”

She nodded, “Do you want me to bring you lunch?”

He closed his eyes, “No—I'm just going to take a nap.”

She hummed, “Okay. I will wake you up for dinner.” She slipped out of his room. Going to report to their parents no doubt.

He laid back smacking his mouth. Relaxing into the mattress he felt himself dozing off. Falling into a deep slumber.

Blood...

He was shaken awake. He saw his mother standing in front of him, she smiled softly at him.

“Is it time for dinner?” His voice was grouchy with sleep.

“Not quite—we have dinner but I need you to come downstairs with us,” She whispered.

Still half-asleep he nodded following her outside and down the stairs. He noted the black and quiet atmosphere.

His footsteps were loud in the darkness, and the table was lit in the middle of the room. His father and his sister were there. Sakura was leaning against him sleeping.

His mother led him to the table, and tucked his head onto her shoulder, "Here," She grabbed a bowl from the kitchen, "Soup we made earlier."

He sat next to her, "Why is everything quiet and dark?"

His parents looked at each other, his mother leaned next to him, "Something happened."

He took a gulp of his soup, "What?"

Blood...Blood...Blood for the Blood God...

His breath froze. He knew what happened before she spoke.

"Someone killed the Uchiha."

BLOOD...BLOOD...BLOOD...

"All of them?" he whispered.

KILL THEM ALL....BLOOD...BLOOD...

"Gone," She replied, blinking dim green eyes, "Even the babes and women in the clan."

"Who?"

BLOOD GOD....BLOOD....DEATH....

Her mother sighed, pulling him close, "They suspect an inside job."

*BLOOD...BLOOD...BLOOD...BLOOD...BLOOD...BLOOD...BLOOD...F...BLOOD...
BLOOD...F...F...F...BLOOD...BLOOD...BLOOD...BLOOD...BLOOD...BLOOD...
BLOODF...F...F...F...TECHNO L...BLOOD...*

"Ren?"

Is that mom???

Omg she looks nice

Techno L! He's still alive!

Momza, anyone???

What did we miss

POG we lived bitch!

“Ren?”

Did someone say blood???

Blood??

Blood

BLOOD

BLOOD

BLOOD

“Ren, are you okay?” He startled. His mother was staring at him in worry. He looked down at his cold soup, his head was ringing with noise.

“I want to go to sleep,” He said numbly.

“Are you okay?” Mom asked, “I’m sorry—I know this is shocking, but they said we should all stay together. If you want to sleep, you do it here—we stay together.”

He nodded absentmindedly, and his mother pulled him closer and he laid his head on her shoulder. She pulled his hair out of his ponytail, and slowly ran her fingers from his scalp down.

Awe this is nice

Moms great!

i miss momza

I do too. Where's Phil?

PHIL?

PHIL??

PHIL!

He let out a long sigh and closed his eyes.

The Healing Warrior

Chapter Notes

shits about to get real
we are almost caught up to Naruto.
should I do any pairings????
Idk

Ren was bad—he barely talks anymore. He doesn't express himself like he used to, he goes to training, comes back and reads alone. Their mother said he's isolating himself. Sakura noticed that her mom also seems to feel bad—she didn't tell her what happened that night, but apparently, she told Ren.

Sakura isn't stupid nor is everyone at the academy. They all quietly noticed the disappearance of the Uchiha kids. Parents, teachers, students and friends vanished. All of them except *Sasuke Uchiha*.

The happy but quiet boy was different like Ren. In fact, they seemed almost identical in their changes. Quieter, angrier, alone. She thought of talking to him comfortingly, like how father has been comforting Ren. Sitting with him and telling him about their day. Never pushing and telling him that everyone loves him and is waiting for him to leave. Kiba-kun talked her out of it.

“Why not?” She whined, sitting next to him on the grass.

“Because,” He leaned over and grabbed a stick, “He will just get angry at you.”

She hmped, grabbing her own stick, “And how do you know that?”

He held the stick like a sword, “Yamanaka already tried—he yelled at her and made her cry.”

“Why?” She gasped, clenching her stick, “How come I didn't know?”

“You weren't here,” He said casually, “Shikamaru tried to tell her but she did it anyway.”

She held her stick out to him, “She should listen to Shikamaru-kun, he knows what he's doing.”

He banged his stick against hers, “And that's why I'm warning you.”

She giggled, retaliating with her stick, “Maybe I should do it and just yell back.”

He scoffed, “You will just end up punching him and starting a fight.”

She slapped his stick out of his hands with hers, “Maybe that’s what I want.”

“Yeah, right,” He laughed, “No matter how mangy you are; you will get your ass beat.”

She gasped loudly, “Kiba!”

Sakura did not talk to Sasuke.

Instead, she talked to Ren. She decided that if couldn't talk to Sasuke then she would talk to her brother.

She could comfort *him* .

“Ren, I'm coming in,” She threw open the door and kicked it closed.

Ren was staring out his window, holding a book lightly in his hands. He didn't even glance at her, “Sakura, get out.”

She glared, *he was much ruder*, “I'm here to talk to you!”

Ren groaned and slammed his book close before he quietly said something under his breath.

“What did you say!” She demanded, stomping over.

“Nothing,” He deadpanned, still not looking over, “What do you want?”

She faltered for a moment, “I want to know what's wrong.”

He huffed, his pink hair in a bun, “Nothing just tired from training.”

“Liar!” She yelled. Ren clenched his head, and she felt slightly bad, “Even if you were tired you were never like this before!”

“Sakura, get out!” He flexed his fist.

“No!” she yelled.

“Sakura!” She flinched a little, she's never heard him get angry.

“No!” She stomped her foot, eyes watering, “You've been really bad lately and it's scaring me!”

“SAKURA!” he roared, turning to her. His eyes didn't just look red now. They were red—a bloody ominous red.

She fell backwards, shocked. She hid behind his bed wondering what happened. She was shaking and tears were failing.

A loud sigh and footsteps came to her side. Ren bent down and sat next to her. She flinched back slightly, he leaned over and she looked at him. His eyes were still slightly red but calmer, he stared at her before flinching harshly. She eyed him.

He sighed, leaning down and hugging her.

She melted into his embrace, wrapping her smaller hands around him. He tucked his face into her hair. She closed her eyes.

“I’m sorry...” He whispered.

She sniffed, “It’s okay I’m just worried, you don’t talk and you’re always in here or training and—”

He held her closer, “I know—I wish I could tell you but...”

“You can tell me,” She sobbed, “I won’t tell anyone, even mom and dad.”

He was quiet still holding her, “You could never,” He stuttered, “Mention or talk or...”

She pulled away and looked at him, “If it helps you.”

He stared at her, eyes now black again no red, “I...I...”

He suddenly lifted her up and sat them on his bed. He grabbed a towel and held it to her, and wiped her face. He pulled her hair back, and let out a loud huff and mumbled something like, *‘shut up, I’m not.’*

He swallowed and stared at her, before bluntly saying, “I hear voices.”

She blinked at him, “What?”

“I have voices,” He explained, “They speak all the time and only I can hear them.”

“Like ghosts?” She asked.

He nodded, “They are the dead—they sometimes know things I don’t know or haven’t happened yet.”

“They know the future?” She wiped her nose.

He looked more relieved than ever, “Yes and they can get rather loud or persistent and they can persuade me to do things I wouldn’t normally do.”

She stared at him, “Can you prove it?”

He looked taken aback, “Eh!?”

“Tell me something about the future,” She demanded.

He let out a long sigh before suddenly flinching, “They say hi by the way.”

She grinned, “Hello.”

He groaned and held up his finger, “Just wait for a second.”

They sat in silence. She thought over this, *were they the ghosts of the Uchiha? Is that why he suddenly had so many? Were they hurting him? Is that why he's been so alone?*

“A few days from now,” He started furrowed, “You will...get in another fight and...someone named—a girl named Ino will help you.”

She scrunched her face up, “Ino? We don't ever talk. I don't think she knows who I am.” *Ren also doesn't know who Ino is.*

Her brother shrugged, “They are yelling about you and Ino—apparently you two will be very good friends.”

Mom will be happy , “Anything else?”

He scoffed, “They're just happy mostly.”

“Good!” She declared, “I don't want them to hurt you.”

He chuckled deeply, “They can't really hurt me.”

She laid down, “Okay.”

“Okay?” He asked, “Well, tell me how meeting your best friend goes.”

She scoffed, “My best friend is Kiba-kun, I doubt Ino-chan will change that.”

He hummed, “They seem pretty positive you will at least be close.”

She shrugged, “I don't even know if I will meet her—I haven't gotten into many fights.”

It happened.

She got into a fight in her Kunoichi class. A girl and her friends tried to bully her because she was alone and unable to properly make a bouquet. They laughed at her for her *‘big forehead’* which is stupid. She must have lost her reputation because they weren't thinking she would punch them right in the face. They ran crying after she did that, which is stupid because they are going to be ninjas— *never run from a fight.*

She was honestly more excited to tell the much-better Ren that she won a fight, she had forgotten about Ino.

“Wow, that was great!” An excited high voice yelled.

She spun around still clenching her face.

Ino-chan was standing there, her face bright with excitement, “I have never seen her get dealt with that easily.”

Sakura was startled, “No one has ever punched her?”

Ino shook her head, “No—everyone's too scared to try, especially with her friends.”

“Oh,” She looked down at her bruising hand, “I didn't know what else to do.”

Ino smiled brightly at her, “Don't worry I can help you if you can't fight.”

She blinked at her, *oh, Ren was right, wasn't he?*

An Angry Flower

Chapter Notes

little friend?
take fluff before the shit hits the fan

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Techno has noticed changes since he confessed to Sakura about his Chat. She has also asked new questions that he tries to answer.

Are they the Uchiha? No.

Why did they appear after they disappeared? They died and I don't know.

Why do you hear voices?

How many are there? Hundreds.

Is it a Kekki Genkai? Technically yes (He thinks of Phil and his birds talking)

Will I get it? I hope not.

And on....And on....

She had lots of questions. He had few answers or at least didn't want to tell her some. He thinks the Uchiha might be a sacrifice, their souls for his old ones. He's starting to think fate might be real.

Sakura said his eyes look red when he's emotional, angry, sad, or happy. He remembers now why he always looked so ominous. He thinks of the Uchiha—he thinks of a bond that must exist. He sometimes thinks he hears quiet voices asking *what's happening* or *where are we*. He lets Chat deal with them.

His fighting has improved since Chat came back. His instincts are full and they warn him of every danger. Nowadays he rarely gets caught by Kakashi. Gai is still impossibly fast but he's gotten faster.

He is also being followed.

He notices it when he walks home or even at home. Eyes stare at him from nowhere. It was down low, staring at him from under the door. No one else in his family felt it and when he told Sensei he laughed and said it was more than likely just a child.

Terrifying, Gai-sensei.

He kept an eye out, after that. Eyeing children to the point of them crying and awkwardly patting their heads to calm them down. It did not stop and he stayed restless. Chat was of little help.

A child????

Maybe Pinky's friends?

It's an animal!!

Oink!

technopig <3

F

F

F

So, no use. He confronted his stalker when he was picking up groceries for his mother. Their presents were alarmed by Chat losing their minds and the feeling of eyes on the back of his head. He turned into an ally and hid behind some trash and waited.

He slowed his breathing and held his bags tightly. A loud click of feet on the ground. It stepped closer to him, numerous ' *click, click, clicks*' following its movement. When it was next to him he dove out of hiding and held up his axe.

And stared.

And stared .

It was not a person. It was a pig. Small and round looking up at him. Brown and white with a long snoot. It blinked up at him, and he blinked at it.

“You are a pig,” He observed dumbly.

Little pig snorted offended, “I am a *hog* —how fucking dare you—”

He could feel his horror growing, “Why are you following me?”

Their eyes sparkled, “Well my pink-haired friend—you smell like my drove!”

“I smell like a pig,” He said numbly, “And you are following me because of it.”

“Pig?!” He shouted, little hooves lifting off the ground, “I fucking said hogs—boars bitch!”

“What is the difference?” Chat was currently losing its collective hive mind.

“Well, I obviously wouldn't have followed you if you smelt like a *pig*,” He scratched its little ear, “Pigs are *pets* ! Little bitches who can't even grow tusks!”

Is this Tommy in pig form? What is happening?

“Why follow me then?” He asked.

The little boar seemed almost embarrassed, “I just got— *not lost* —but I can't find my drove.”

“So you're lost?” He deadpanned.

“It's not my fault, bitch!” He snorted angrily, “Someone tried to steal me!”

Techno's head was starting to pound with all the *aww*'s from chat, “Why would someone try to steal you?”

“I—,” He said royally, “I am the only farrow of the Great Boar.”

It came to him suddenly, “You're a summon.”

“I am!” He declared, “Or I will be.”

Techno blinked at him before looking at the bags in his hands, “I have to go.”

The little pig did not seem to understand, “Good! I need to talk to your drove! I must find my way home!”

“Uhh,” Chat was demanding he grab the piglet, “You need help?”

He hopped its way over to him and looked up at him, “No! I just need you to take me home because I am currently unable.”

“You need help?” He asked again.

He scratched at the ground embarrassed, “Yes.”

Techno let out a long painful sigh, readjusting his bag he crouched and held out his hand.

The baby stared at him, “The fuck is that?”

“I am not going to walk home with you on my heels the whole time,” He explained slowly.

He seemed insulted, “Why the fuck not?”

He whispered a prayer to XD, “Because I don't think you want anyone to step on you.”

“I can hide!” He said, “I follow you all the time with no one seeing me!”

Techno sighed, “Do you want to see my parents or not?”

He whined, before walking into his arms, “Make sure no one pets me.”

Walking home with a little boar in his hands was stressful. He kept the quiet whiner pressed into his chest, not letting anyone see him. His Chat was gushing about how soft and cute he was. But he was thinking of the Great Boar. A summon that was robbed of its only child? That would cause disturbance somewhere. A powerful summon that must have been betrayed or fooled. A creature that means fierceness and courage, strength and power. A summon like that would be coveted. But boars are typically avoided—and pigs don't seem to be liked by them. Who would try to piss off something so strong?

He walked into his home ignoring the wiggling piglet. He sat the bag on the table and listened to his mother moving around. He yelled his greetings and she yelled back.

He walked into the kitchen and stared at his mother, she turned and stared at his arms.

“Why do you have a pig?”

Techno knew the response before he spoke, “I am not a fucking pig!”

She blinked at him, “Wh-where did you get him?”

“He's been following me,” He responded casually.

“Why?” She asked.

“I need him to take me home,” The hog piped in.

“Oh,” His mother responded, staring at the talking pig, “Where?”

The piglet seemed to puff up before deflating, “I don't know.”

They both looked at the sad pig, Techno asked, “How don't you know?”

“Because!” He shouted sadly, “I was summoned! But I don't know how to go back!”

Techno sighed, “I am going to have to ask Sensei.”

Everyone nodded, and then the small voice asked, “Who is your Sensei?”

“It will take a few, young Ren,” Gai said gravely, holding the small pig with surprisingly gentle hands.

“Why?” He asked.

“He needs to be taught to go back,” He explained, “It can go quickly—he doesn't look very old but he seems intelligent.”

“Damn right I am,” The small pig grumbled.

He handed the boar back. He clutched him close looking down at him.

“How long?” He asked, looking back up.

Gai shrugged, “Could be in a day, could be in a year.”

The pig gasped, upset, “I don't want to be stuck here for a year.”

“Then learn fast, small boar,” Gai said wisely.

He remembered to ask the pig something later.

“What is your name?” He quietly asked the hog.

He was quiet before letting out a sad snort, “I do not have a name—I would get mine when I start growing my tusks.”

Techno whispered, “Do you want a name?”

The little boar looked up at him with sparkling eyes, “Do you have something good?”

Techno looked back, “I have a name—I tried to name someone else this but they didn't like it.”

“What is it?” He asked.

He quietly told him, “Theseus.”

The little guy looked at him, “Sounds nice.”

Little Thesus burrowed into his arms, little legs kicking. Techno let out a long painful sigh and held him closer.

Chapter End Notes

little friend.

The Ice Prince

Chapter Notes

happy halloween!
time jumps baby!!!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Theseus was a *menace* .

Techno was quite sure everyone tried to kill the hog at some point. He didn't make it easy while he was around. He yelled and swore and tried to fight everyone and everything. Techno was used to this thanks to Tommy and Tubbo but others weren't. They didn't know how to ignore and funnel stupid stuff out.

His parents left the room if they saw him. Never even wanting to be near him especially since he calls them Pig Preachers. None of them really know what that means but it is definitely supposed to be insulting.

Sakura likes him much more because Theseus is happy for scratches and she was fine giving them. He liked her attitude and though he was stuck up, he seemed to like her. Her strength and ferocity were apparently quite liked by the swine.

Theseus seemed to respect Gai-sensei, but he might just be scared that he has more energy than he does.

He was definitely scared of Kakashi, he whined and seemed to run from him. He would come back a few minutes later claiming nothing happened. The little hog told him it was because Kakashi smelled of canine or wolf.

All-in-all, everyone hated him and he hated everyone.

Fair is fair.

Chat also made their feelings known. They *adored* Theseus. Gushed about him like proud parents—told him to keep him, not let him go. He disagreed—Theseus was extremely valuable especially if he could hand out a swine summon. He was far too valuable.

Chat also loved Gai—they also mentioned that he was much stronger than he looked. They constantly nagged about ‘*his son.*’ Asking where he is and if he was gonna show up soon. He didn't think Sensei was seeing anyone and he didn't seem to want a child so he was curious.

Chat was mixed with Sakura annoyingly. Half liked her and called her strong and ‘*different to what they thought.*’ The other half was pitifully cruel—saying she had no use, or that she

was annoying. He banned anyone who called her rude names—he could barely stand them. He did sometimes wonder who ‘*Sasuke*’ was.

It was hard with his parents—they were just compared and mourned as if they were dead. Someone donated and told him they wouldn't last past the main plot. He refused to admit that scared him more than anything, he had refused to talk to them for a few days.

It also made him aware of something terrible—the story playing out. They seemed sure the important stuff hadn't happened yet. But they would randomly gush about people he doesn't even know exist yet.

His axe strangely enough became the centre of talk for a while. They called it puny and said he could do better. He agreed and said when he was big enough he would buy a full-sized axe instead of a small throwing one. He was already tall for his age and far stronger than normal, he just would need to wait a little longer.

Theseus learned how to leave a few weeks after he showed up. He just vanished and no one spoke. He remembers looking at Gai feeling painfully young.

“Is he gonna come back?”

Theseus had disappeared and had yet to come back.

He and Chat cried that day. He didn't know it would hurt so much or that he got so attached.

Months later he saw Theseus.

He was following him again, much more *un*-subtly.

Mostly because he seemed to be bigger than last time. He was also more aware of being followed and the loud sound of hooves on the ground. He cornered him again.

“What are you doing?” He questioned the pig sitting on the ground.

“I—” He stood, looking up at him, “—am here to bring you a message, bitch.”

He knelt down in front of the now with tusks hog.

“The Great Boar had me bring you this,” He turned around to show a scroll attached to his back.

Techno sighed leaning over and unclipping it, he carefully unscrolled it and held it out. His brow furrowed, “It's blank.”

Theseus let out a dramatic sigh, “No—it's for you.”

Techno stared at him blankly, “Eh?!”

“Yes!” He declared, looking proud, “I convinced him to allow you to have this!”

“This is...” He sat in disbelief, “This is a summoner’s scroll.”

“Isn't it great?!” Theseus sparked, “Now I can stay with you and my drove can help you!”

He gazed at Theseus, “You brought me this because you wanted to stay with me?”

“No!” He snorted, “You smell like a hog—and I just—I was supposed to give it away and you were the not worst choice.” He started it like a fact.

Techno felt rather honoured—It was a big deal to have a summoner’s agreement and the swine scroll seemed to be a strong fighting one. He knew some would be upset with him receiving it, some did not like that he even had Theseus with him. They thought he would be better suited to someone worthy of it.

A summoner scroll would certainly bring him some unneeded attention.

He stared down at the hog and held out his hand.

“Let's go talk to sensei.”

Sensei was warning him.

“Having a summoner scroll, especially with your issues might be dangerous,” He was holding the scroll looking over it. “Or they would show up in different ways than what would typically happen.”

“I could actually summon something?” He asked, clutching his pig to his chest.

“More than likely!” He declared, “But I have never seen someone use this before—I do not know how this will change you.”

Techno’s hair breezed around his face in the wind, “Should I sign it?”

“Yes!” Theseus shouted in his arms.

“You *were* chosen...” Gai rubbed his chin thinking, “It could be a horrible insult if you don’t.”

“I will be very insulted if you don't!” He yelled again.

He shushed the sleepy pig, “Will...will anyone care that I signed it?”

Gai looked serious, “Yes, I'm afraid so, however, you do have a sister who is in the academy. They like the idea of her receiving it more than you, I'm afraid.”

He considered it, “Could you tell them that I will give it to her when I die or something?”

Gai looked saddened at the thought, “Do not worry, I will tell them something to leave you alone.”

“So you will sign it?” Theseus piped in.

Techno let out a long sign with Chat chanting in his head, “Yes—I will sign it.”

Both Gai and Theseus cheered.

He rolled out the scroll and pricked his finger on his axe and carefully wrote his name.

Techno swallowed, “Summoning Jutsu!”

A small mist gathered and...

Theseus sat on the scroll staring up at him with obvious glee.

Gai cheered again.

He let out a long painful sigh at what was to come.

Gai dropped a bomb.

“I am going to receive new students!” He posed.

The now twelve-year-old eyed his long-time sensei. He was carefully sharpening his pair of throwing axes, his back-length pink hair pulled into a tight braid.

“Why?” He hadn't had students the entire time he was his teacher and he never seemed to want any.

“I believe if you had acquaintances you might benefit from them!” He lied through his shiny, white, teeth.

Techno hummed, “Did the Hokage force you?”

“No!” He proclaimed, “I simply have taken an interest!”

“He's been spying on that one little fucker,” Theseus said.

Gai gasped, “Little Theseus how could you? You promised!”

“I literally live with him,” Theseus snorted.

He paused in his sharpening, “The boy who's like you?”

“Yes,” Sensei said gravely, “He would not graduate but I pledged to take him on as a student, that is the only way they let him pass.”

Techno and his summon snorted, “Who else are they sticking you with?”

“A Hyuga boy and an orphan girl.”

“Two tops of the class and one bottom?” He asked.

“Indeed,” He nodded.

Techno questioned, “I thought those types of teams tend to do the worst.”

“They are hoping for an entire taijutsu team.”

Chat whispered about two of the members, “Make sure to pay attention to the girl—she will probably end up needing more help.”

Gai nodded, at this point used to his students' strange wisdom, “Yes, which is why I'm glad to have a very capable helper who will aid me in my teaching.”

Techno froze, “Huh?”

Gai was nodding solemnly, “Yes, I'm very happy.”

“Huh?!”

The students were easy to spot.

He was spying on them from atop a building nearby. Staring at the arrogant Hyuga, the excited girl and the loud boy.

Theseus was laying next to him lounging in the bright sun. He hoped Gai wouldn't make him stay the whole time. His sister was going to meet him later, and they planned on going and getting on dango together. They tried to have more consistent outings since Sakura has made friends and is keeping up with school. She was not the best in her grade but she made her tests the best. No clan kids had her scores or control.

She and Ino are still friends—something that seemed to have surprised Chat. They seemed to have taken bets on if their friendship would end or not. Apparently, they were supposed to have a major falling out but it never really happened.

Her friendship with the dog kid was just as violent as before. He is a great fighter and they train together all the time (*more like they beat the shit outta each other*). The dog boy also got a dog—he wasn't as jealous as he used to be not when he had Theseus.

The boy Sensei had been watching stood. Techno turned to Theseus.

“Do you think any of them will be good?”

“What?” He looked at them snorting, “No, not in comparison to you big man.”

“I am their age,” he continued, “I am sure Gai has done that on purpose.”

“He talks to tall wolf-man about you,” Theseus tells him, “He thinks you’ve ‘plateaued’ or something.”

Techno wiped his head to him, “He thinks I’ve plateaued!?”

Theseus looked at him confused, “He says ‘*you won’t progress unless you challenge yourself.*’”

Techno was quiet staring into nothing. If he wanted to challenge himself he would petition sensei to allow him into the Chunin exams. But did he want to progress? He feels calm, and at peace for the first time in years. His sister will get ahead in life and they will stay close. He won’t have to work for a militaristic society. Does he actually want to go farther?

“Dumbasses are all yelling at each other,” Theseus snorted.

He looked over, and the Sensei clone was yelling at the Hyuga (*He really should learn their names*). Techno snorting, he pulled out his axe and started tossing it, “They’re gonna have to get over that to work together.”

“Of course!” He snorted, nodding sagely, “Just like how I am going to have to work with pig bitches someday.”

He looked at his boar, “Maybe I should summon a pig just to force you to be nice to them.”

Theseus looked appalled, “Why? How could you?”

Techno thought about it, “Actually that isn’t a horrible idea.”

“You wouldn’t dare—”

“MY SWEET YOUTHFUL STUDENT!”

They were startled, turning to see Gai sensei waving his hands dramatically gesturing for him to come over. His three new students were staring at him, all with different expressions. The girl looked excited and curious, baby sensei was shocked and nervous, and the Hyuga was considering and narrowed.

“FOLLOW US! WE WILL BE TESTING THEM ON TRAINING GROUND EIGHT!”

Alright, let's see how good they are.

Chapter End Notes

funny story---dont step on fire ants.
my feet hurt

A Forgotten Student

Chapter Notes

halloween was good.
I dressed as a vampire, it was a good time
enjoy a girlie.

Tenten was easily forgotten; she knew and understood that. But it left her to time, she could blend into the background and observe. Visually, she didn't stand out, her brown hair and eyes. An orphan with no last name. She was too much of a tomboy, she thought. She didn't wear dresses, she didn't keep her hair down. She didn't love boys and obsess over them. Her Kunoichi classes were failures; she only worked with weapons. Her chakra was small, her control small and her imagination was terrible.

Tenten didn't know her teammates except for seeing them in the academy. Rock Lee was loud and tried his best but he was just not able to do what they wanted (*Just give up, no one wants to watch someone try so hard only to fail*). Neji Hyuga was....a Hyuga. He was smart and cocky, it was easy to accept that he would always be better than her. She could accept that. It wasn't easy but she wasn't competing with him. She was competing with the girls, and she proved to be the best of them.

Being put on a team with them was okay, but she knew they would be the main focus. The top-of-the-class Hyuga with a superiority complex. The bottom of the class with the determination to move mountains. And her.

She gazed at the pink-haired boy. He was taller than all of them. He was dressed even nicer than Neji, wrapped in deep red with dark pink swirls knitted into it. He was not dressed like a ninja. He was dressed to speak with the Hokage maybe—perhaps even better. The only thing out of place was the pair of axes on his waist. He gave off no ninja vibes.

“This is my student of many years!” Their new sensei announced, and he waved his hand at him, “Ren is your age and will help with our training.”

She eyed Ren. His face didn't change, he was obviously unsurprised. Neji was not impressed, he was looking down his nose at him. Lee looked nervous but ready—determined. She felt nervous—their Sensei seemed capable. He might not have been an academy student, but that didn't mean he was worse than them.

“I want you to try to hit him.”

They all turned to Sensei shocked. He was smiling grandly, “Ren is one of the fastest fighters I know—he is almost untouchable without using jutsu.”

She narrowed her eyes at him, *untouchable* ? He was their age and dressed like a fancy merchant. And they were going to be ninjas—she couldn't see his Hitai-ate. She swallowed nervously. He was untouchable unless they used jutsu. She could use them, but it took the strain.

“One at a time,” He continued, “Neji first, Tenten second and Lee third. You will all watch the other. It will last until I say to stop.”

“Until *you* say it stops?” Lee asked, confused, “I thought until we hit him.”

Sensei smiled, “None of you will properly be able to hit him.”

She could see Neji scowl, his pretty white eyes scrunched, “I highly doubt that.”

Sensei only smiled again, “Maybe.”

“May I fight back sensei?” A voice asked.

The new team turned to their teacher's first student, he was looking at sensei. He stood aloof, eyes only on Gai.

“No need my youthful student!” He yelled, “You will be strictly dodging and bracing.”

“What? That’s fucking bullshit!” A loud short voice shouted.

They were all shocked, spinning around to find the sound. They stopped and stared at Ren’s feet. A small pig was standing staring at sensei.

“Ahh young Theseus, do not worry, it is all fair,” He bowed.

“Fair!?” The small boar yelled, “How is it fair if he can’t fight back?”

She heard Lee fall back shocked while Neji sharply inhaled, A summon, small and talking. She stared in shock.

“Because he will not be hit, small swine.”

The pig—Theseus huffed and looked up at Ren, “I will be watching.”

Ren stared down at him, “No getting involved.”

He snorted, “Fine wasn't going to anyways.” He stood up and waddled away.

Ren looked back up, eyes a deep brown, face angular, staring at them unnervingly, “Ready?”

She winced, watching Neji. She knew Neji was a fantastic fighter; he was the best in their grade, a prodigy in his own right. But he had nothing on Ren. Sensei was right about his speed, he was impossibly fast and Neji broke out his byakugan quickly, but he soon learned

he wouldn't be able to get anywhere close to Ren if he didn't use henge or substitute. She dreaded her upcoming fight.

Ren jumped another hand going for his shoulder. He dove past Neji in a blur forcing him to turn and aim low. Their hairs were flying in the air, brown and pink. Neji attacked again.

“What are you going to try?” A deep voice startled her.

She turned to see Sensei, “I am...” she breathed in, “I am going to go for range—I am not fast enough for hand-to-hand combat with him but I have good aim.”

Sensei nodded, eyes on the fight, “Smart—just be aware Ren also uses throwing axes, he knows what he's doing.”

She gnawed on her lips, “I just have to keep my distance.”

“Be prepared to move,” Neji attempted a substitution, “Ren will run for you—have you noticed it yet?” He said this to both her and Lee who was nearby.

“What?” They both asked.

“Watch Ren.”

They turned to the fight, Ren somehow keeping up with the Hyuga byakugan. He was spinning in red and pink, his ears pierced with gold and rose. Her heart pounded watching them, they were beautiful in their own ways. Neji was all Hyuga with his straight face, his eyes bright. Ren felt unapproachable but when he fought it was like he glowed, his sharp face alight with power. They fought like a dance around each other, outfits spinning. The strength in their swings was undeniable. Her breath caught.

But....

“Why does Ren stop?”

Lee was squinting at them, his full black hair was pinned back. Her lips parted thinking. Ren seemed to pause, giving Neji moments of escape. He would stare into nothing and then swing around to wherever Neji hid.

Her eyebrows rose, “Is he purposely letting Neji balance himself?”

“No,” Sensei said slowly, “Ren is similar to me and you, Lee, he cannot use chakra—because of that he senses differently; slower but much more accurate than most chakra sensing.”

They nodded their heads determinedly, he had a weak spot. A weakness that made him accurate but slower.

A loud snort, “This fight is over—stuck-up bitch is too tired to continue.”

Gai nodded his head, “You are right young Theseus.”

He yelled loud and clear to Neji and Ren. Instantly Ren rested calm—Neji stayed in position tense. Neji slowly unravelled but kept his eyes on Ren.

Neji walked over panting and sweaty, he elegantly sat next to her on the ground. She stared at his peripheral and his straight nose. He ignored all of them watching him. She thought of saying, ‘ *shouldn't have been so cocky* ’, but held back.

A hand came to her shoulder startling her, “Alright, Tenten, you're up.”

She braised herself, standing and dusting her clothes, somehow feeling underdressed. Walking to the tall and impeccably done-up Ren was harder than any test. She stopped in front of him, she stared up at his monotone face. She bowed remembering her manners and he bowed back.

She got into position steeling herself, his almost red eyes scared her. But she will show herself as well as she can. Show Neji and Lee that she deserved respect and Sensei that she could be useful. She will not be the one teammate left behind, the girl who would be forgotten on a team of more memorable members. She would prove her worth—she will not be thrown aside, she will be like Lady Tsunade. A beloved terror.

She patted her senbon and shuriken and readied herself.

Try to hit him.

He ran at her.

She went through the substitution as fast as possible and vanished into a tree. Quickly throwing her senbon and performing it again. She appeared farther, quickly launching her shuriken. She vanished again on the opposite side and prepared a trap quickly, a wire all around her.

She heard him move, he was faster than anyone she's seen, almost a blur. But while Sensei said it was his speed that was important, it was also his strength. He threw himself around during Neji's fight recklessly. He was very strong but during the fight, he seemed to turn into an animal following his instincts, not his senses.

She did her gestures and a clone appeared. Her chakra was low—very few Jutsu's left.

He ran into the clearing and she appeared in front of him.

Yelling she threw herself into him, she latched onto him. Wrapping her arms around his middle and throwing him backwards, he let out a grunt but stayed steady.

In a second, her clone activated the trap and vanished. Weapons hurled themselves at them. She dove to the ground letting go of him, she used chakra string and yanked his feet forward.

His hand launched out and caught himself. Her weapons flew to him and he quickly flew forward and she substituted again.

She flew towards him in the spot her weapons used to be. She yelled from her chest, holding a fist out in front of her inches from his face.

Her breath was torn out of her in an instant. He grabbed her waist and threw her down, they stared at each other. She could hear Sensei yelling in the background, something about *'youth'* and *'blessed students.'*

Ren raised an eyebrow at her, "Not in a thousand years."

She laid her head back, out of breath and tired. She let out a snort at Ren's words.

Maybe one or two.

A Tired Brother

Chapter Notes

next chapter is time jump time.

this is my shortest chapter but the next one will be pretty long I think

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Techno was going to kill Sakura.

“.....But if you work with....”

She has been bothering him for the past hour.

“.....Did you even help.....”

Does she even know what she's complaining about?

“.....Are you even listening to me?”

“No,” He said instinctively.

She let out a loud yell and threw herself onto his bed. Her hair and clothes were a mess, she just came back from the academy. The training was getting harder since most of the class would be graduating next year. She had barged into his room when she learned of the new genin team Sensei had passed. The one he had helped test.

They were alright, he told Gai. The Eret-copy was capable and would grow to be great if he let go of his pride. The buns girl was clever and he liked her wit, but her uncomfortableness with things she doesn't understand needs to be fixed—it will hold her back in the long run, and she will never be able to get out of her comfort zone. The last boy was easily the worst, but he had a great amount of potential—if he could come to be like Sensei (*who he was kind of sure was his father*) then he could be extremely powerful.

All-in-all good potential and their teamwork could be amazing together. He also realised one of them will need to learn some medical skills and it wasn't going to be the girl or sensei-clone.

I wonder how open the Hyuga will be to Neji being a medic? He wondered.

His sister huffed, “Tell me about the test.”

He snorted, “No—especially because it doesn't matter.”

“Doesn't matter?” She yelled, head popping up, “I need all the advantages I can get especially if I get a bad team.”

His head pounded, “Some teachers test for different things—Gai tested for endurance and ability.”

She huffed, sitting up and swinging her feet around. She turned to face him, “How hard was it?”

He let out a long sigh, “I was who they fought, there was no goal, it was just to fight until Sensei said to stop.”

She hummed, looking down at Theseus who was sleeping on his small bed. She wasn't worried about passing her test, but working with others was hard—the Haruno siblings were not known for their compatibility.

“You will be fine,” He said, “just make sure you stand out in whatever team you are put in—if they think you are capable enough you can be taken on as a student.”

She bit her lip slightly, her eyes big and worried, “What if I'm not enough?”

He squinted, “You are.”

“*But*,” Her eyes were watering, “Over half of my class are clan kids and if only half of my class will pass—how will I stand out?”

He felt extremely uncomfortable but crouched in front of her, he cleared his throat, “You will be fine....you are top of your class....which means they will have to put you with the Rookie and the worst in your class.” He ignored his voices screaming about him being bad with people, calling him ‘*cringe*’ and ‘*awkward*.’ As if they could do any better.

She wiped her eyes, “Rookie— *Sasuke*?”

“Is he important?” His nose scrunched in distaste.

She nodded, laughing quietly, “Most of the girls in my class have huge crushes on him—like Ino-chan.”

He hummed, Chat was now screaming about ships and killing problems before they started, “Not you?”

She giggled, “He's pretty but....he's kind of mean.”

“Mean, a pretty brutal word,” He chuckled.

Her eyes were barely puffy, “He can be but, he just seems unhappy.”

He huffs, standing and stretching. He stares down at her, “Want to train?”

Techno held tightly onto his loved ones.

He has always been like this, holding close and having a hard time letting go. He committed himself to those he cared for. It was worse than before. Haunted by instincts he could never fulfil or act in truth. So he tried to work in other ways—he gave everyone his own crafted gold. He kept his voices in tune with them.

Coming here was the relief he was always searching for. No voices, no instincts, no being close to the main character.

When he signed the contract he knew what he was signing into. It was the universe fixing itself, making sure he would always stay the same. But he would not feed into the universe, he is not a man of legend here. And he didn't want to be one, not when he could take care of his loved ones so much better. He thought being strong and powerful would bring them peace. Instead, they were worse—angry for training all the time. So here, he would stay around to let his sister become the legend. She would be better than him and he could teach her all the things not to do.

But while he did love his sister he could see she wasn't the obvious prodigy. She was smart and clever and her strength was clear, but she was not a genius. And he forgot what it was like helping someone who wasn't like you. He got frustrated sometimes with her, for not understanding or being able to do what he could. But then he was happy she wasn't a prodigy, he read about prodigies in the world on shinobi.

So he clutched her tight, keeping Sakura safe from the worst the world had to offer. Taught her the best he could, and gave her more resources than he ever could. His parents said it feels like he raised her most days. They were more similar than not.

His protectiveness and her aggression and anger.

His love for stories and her love for knowledge.

His obsession and her passion and love.

Sometimes he thought the universe made another him. Copied him and changed him slightly. But she wasn't. She was her own person, and she was scared.

Scared of not succeeding in something she wanted to do for so long. Losing and coming home in tears. Losing her friends to work and a life she wouldn't be invited to.

And soon she would be graduating and becoming a genin and official shinobi. So they studied, and she practised the three basics of the academy.

She hoped Saskue got better and whoever their third partner is, is capable despite being last.

I might change the names next chapter since we start the actual story, also damn its hard to come up with new names.

Sakura One

Chapter Notes

Jesus lets go

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Sakura woke to light beginning to creep through her dark-speckled curtains. The darkness of her room alerted her to the time, she wouldn't be awake for a few more hours.

Her hair stuck up at all ends as she shuffled out of her bed. She quickly changed, putting on her red shirt with beige cutouts, and her pants were thrown on quickly. Pulling her hair back she looked out her window, Ren was sitting on their neighbour's roof with Theseus laying next to him. His hair was braided back with gold and bronze interlaced strategically. A light blue kimono with gold patches delicately laid on top of a white shirt. His brown pants held onto his weapons and the summoner's scroll.

No Hitai-ate rested on him, for he was no ninja.

She ran out of the house and stared at him from the ground. Theseus opened his eyes and looked at her, he was growing tusks and his colour was getting brighter—he was at her thighs now. She waited for a moment.

Ren opened his dark eyes and looked down his pointy nose at her. He seemed to sigh and stand. He jumped down from the rickety roof to the road.

“You're awake too early,” He mumbled.

She snorted, shrugging her shoulders, “Your one to speak—did you have a nightmare?” She leaned close, her gold ring necklace swinging forward.

He scoffed, face twitching into a smile, “You kept me up, it was all your fault.”

“My fault?” She scowled at him, “I went to sleep right after dinner.”

He chuckled, frame shaking, and started them walking to the nearby park, “Chat was so focused on you all night, you'd think you were dying.”

She huffed at him following him, “Not my fault they love me more.”

“They love me the most bitch!” Theseus yelled from the ground.

“Yeah, because you are a small pig,” She drawled.

“How fucking dare you—”

She laughed looking at her stoic brother. He was watching the ninja run through their morning duties, people were coming out of their houses now as the sun rose. They stopped at the crescent of the hill. The sun was right above the ground, beaming into them.

“When you become a genin, you will be an official ninja,” He stated.

“I will,” She clenched her fists, “I will be a leaf ninja.”

He tapped his fingers against his pants, “You will directly serve the Hokage and any of his council, not able to go against them unless you wish to be punished in some way.”

She swallowed, “Do you....do you think I can handle it?”

He huffed, “You might, but it will change you—I'm just trying to offer my support when it starts.”

She giggled, before sobering slightly at his words, “How will I change?”

He looked thoughtful, “I don't know.”

She felt almost scared at the thought, “You don't know?” I thought you knew everything.”

“You say that with little to no mocking,” His eyes were sad, “but no—I don't know, but that doesn't change my offer or alter my....care for you.” He said the last part slowly, awkwardly like he doesn't understand the words, “I don't want you hurt.”

Her cheeks hurt from the smile on her face, “I'm glad—I don't want to lose you too.”

He simply nodded looking away from her, face a soft pink. She grabbed him and hugged him tightly, he stood stiffly before his hands came to her head and neck. He suddenly held her tightly, ducking his head into her hair. She swayed them, eyes watering and she kept her face hidden as the sun illuminated them.

He pulled back, “I will walk you to school today.” He turned and started walking, giving her no glance.

She let out a wet laugh and ran after him.

They arrived at school a few hours after he talked to her. He simply told her parents that he was *‘escorting her to her academy.’* Her mother snorted, and mumbled about *‘a little gentleman indeed.’* Their father nodded, as he was the one who typically walked with her, as his work was close by and he liked arriving first to get ready.

They walked in mostly silence, broken by Thesues grunting and yelling. She quietly went over the jutsu they would test her on, going over the hand signs subtly. Ren definitely knew what she was doing but didn't say anything especially when he himself did not use ninjutsu or care.

The academy was filled with students in and around. They ran happily without care, playing ninja and throwing weapons around like paper. She swallowed, she will be an actual ninja soon, be what she wanted growing up. No longer playing at hunting down missing-nin but actually doing so.

Ren suddenly grabbed her shoulder and turned her to him.

She looked at him wide-eyed, and he swallowed before nodding, “Make them regret the day they were born.” Then he turned around and walked away.

She stared after him extremely confused before nodding and mumbling, “Make them regret it.”

She ran to her class. The class was starting to fill, and she searched for her friends. Kiba-kun and Ino-chan were sitting in the middle yelling at each other. Arkumaru was barking, spinning in a circle, just for the chaos. She ran up the steps and sat in the open spot next to Ino as she argued with Kiba about something. She tapped her shoulder with no fear.

“—and no! That doesn't mean what you think—What!?” She turned and yelled straight in Sakura's face. Ino blinked at her, “Oh! Sakura! You're here, good tell dog-breath that taijutsu is not the best fighting technique, it's genjutsu.”

Kiba scoffed, “Please she is going to agree with me. We practise taijutsu all the time.”

“So?” She put her hand on her hips, “That just means she—Sasuke-kun!” She stood gasping her blonde hair whipping Kiba in the face. Sasuke was walking past them on the way to his seat, not glancing at any of the girls now screaming his name. Sakura eyed him as he walked past unintentionally making eye contact. His dark eyes narrowed on her before scoffing slightly, she glared at him as he continued past.

“Sakura! Sakura!” Ino whisper-yelled in her ear, “He totally just stared at you! He totally likes you!”

Kiba mocked her on the other side, “Yeah, he's totally in *love* .”

Ino spun around and continued yelling at Kiba.

Sakura smiled watching them, she would normally get involved and yell with them but she was truly nervous today. Continuing her practising, she didn't notice a figure standing by her desk looking down at her.

“You really don't need to practise,” A slow drawing voice spoke.

She startled and dropped her hands. Shikamaru was standing there, watching her with sharp hawk-like eyes, she was confused “What?”

“You have the best chakra control in the class,” He said, “You don't need to be worried—you will pass.”

She hummed, “What about you? You don't do anything in class but I have no doubt you will pass as well—but that's because you're a genius right?”

He grimaced, “Yeah—my dad made sure I would know everything.”

She nodded with an innocent look on her face, “Right, how lucky for you.”

He sighed mumbling ‘*troublesome*’, “I didn't mean it like that—”

“It's fine—I mean you didn't ask to get help, you just got it,” She said.

“Yeah,” He clicked his tongue, face turned slightly pink, “Sorry—I didn't mean to get you riled, just wanted to say you have nothing to worry—Sorry.”

She felt bad, “No—I'm sorry—I didn't mean to make you feel bad, I just remember us talking about...stuff.” Her face was now red.

He snorted at her words, “You make it sound so weird—either way, you're fine stop showing the rest of us up.”

She smiled, “Thanks—I'm sure you will breeze your way through the test.”

He nodded and made his way to Chouji, his best friend.

She watched him sit down and smiled to herself.

“What was that?” Her friends asked together.

She turned to them, staring at their blinking faces, “What was what?”

“You and Shikamaru being friends?” Ino waved her hand, “I have known him since forever and I have never seen you and him talk.”

“I know Shikamaru,” She said, “We talked once.”

“Once, huh,” Kiba huffed, Akamaru barked in agreement, “And what was ‘stuff?’”

She stared at them for a moment, she thought about telling them about what still follows her, the biases and the clan politics, “It was—”

“Everyone sit down!” Iruka-sensei yelled, followed by Mizuki-sensei.

“Testing will begin soon, everyone just be patient,” He waved his hand. He turned to the other and they quietly began talking.

She turned to Ino and Kiba, “Who do you think is going to fail?”

Kiba snorted, “Who do I think, well that one's obvious,” He pointed to a bright blob sitting to the side, “Naruto's chakra control is horrible, he makes my nose itch at all times.”

Ino nodded, eyes bright blue, “Yeah, I didn't even think he'd show up today, especially after yesterday.”

Sakura rubbed her forehead, “Of course he would, I hoped he might get here later though.”

Ino leaned over, “ *Ohh* , trying to avoid your largest admirer?”

Sakura deadpanned, “Oh, yes, I'm so happy to see him.”

“Alright,” Sensei clapped his hands together, “Let's begin.”

The test was easy.

Like *stupid* easy. A simple paper test and the three academy jutsu, clone, henge and substitution. It was simple, she turned into Sensei, cloned herself and substituted it with a chair. The written test was over shinobi rules and the village's history was almost basic. She was handed her headband by Mizuki-sensei, a smile on his face.

Her family was ecstatic, taking them all out for dinner, getting ribs and dango. It was perfect, she did notice in the night ninja running off towards the centre of the village and back out again.

They would go back to the academy the next day, to get their assigned teams. She thought back to Sasuke with a scowl. She quietly hoped her teammate was either Shikamaru or Kiba, both were some of the worst in their class and she knew they would make fine teammates. They would also be a good counteract for Saskue's pompous attitude.

She stared at the starry sky out of her window. Her headband was sitting next to her, she had yet to put it on. Pink hair was being slowly brushed back by her fingers. Watching the sky, Ren slowly entered the room. He sat across from her, his hair was also out and he held a brush in his hand. She turned her head to let him brush her hair.

He combed through gently, “Chat's worried about you.”

She hummed, “About what?”

His long fingers pulled her hair into braids, “They seem to think you will be involved in some....stuff.”

She snorted, they really were siblings, “Am I that important?”

“They think you are a main character,” Ren chuckled, “A new tale is starting they say.”

A star shot across the sky, “Who is it about?”

Ren hummed, “Some poor orphan boy,” He tied the hair off, “All the orphan kids are important—main character syndrome.”

Like a story, “I don't fit that.”

“Be glad,” He said, “Main characters are terrifying and are overpowered.”

She looked at him, “Does that mean I will be terrifying and overpowered?”

He stared at her, “Maybe.”

They turned to the sky, sparkling lights in the sky. Eventually, Ren left his feet softly padding on the floor. She closed her blinds, stared down her headband and went to bed.

She and Ino met up on the way to the academy. Her headband was wrapped around her forehead whilst Ino had hers on her waist. They raced down the road, and into the class. They arrived breathing heavily and yelling at each other when Ino ran off to Sasuke, she had considered telling her she was going to be on his team but dismissed the idea. Naruto yelled at her to sit next to him, but he was sitting next to Sasuke.

She sat next to Kiba on the bench, cheered about his headband, and pat his dog with care. At some point, Naruto and Saskue kissed, which....alright then. She was more surprised Naruto was even here, she swore he failed the test.

Ino in all her power was sitting next to Saskue proudly while ignoring the ruffled Naruto next to her. She giggled with Kiba that Ino was totally going to lose it when she was put on a different team.

Iruka-sensei came in finally ready to hand out their teams.

“Alright group assignments,” Iruke began.

He went through the lists until...

“Team seven,” He started, “Naruto Uzumaki....

Naruto looked up with wide blue eyes from his desk.

“Sakura Haruno....”

Her jaw dropped and green eyes widened.

“....finally Sasuke Uchiha.”

She could dimly feel Kiba patting her arm consoling and Akamaru nudging her. She was almost nauseous. Naruto and Sasuke? They *hated* each other, she didn't like Sasuke and Naruto liked her (*a little too much*) . It will just be argument after argument.

The next teams were being called. Kiba was put on a team with Hinata Hyuga and Shino Aburame. She wanted to tell him he was lucky but she knew he and Shino didn't really get along. Finally, Ino was put on a team with Shikamaru Nara and Choji Akamichi. Ino was

upset but Sakura would happily trade places. Shikamaru was smart and capable, and Choji was sweet and friendly.

Team Seven , she thought, *a loud orphan, a noble prodigy and her.*

....

Main Characters Syndrome is real it seems.

Chapter End Notes

so how many people know the plot of Naruto?

Technobade One

Chapter Notes

god I'm ready for plot, I have so many thoughts

any plot points y'all want??

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Techno wondered how Sakura was doing. Chat was very talkative about how she was going to have to work with some people she didn't like.

Anyone else think they could fail?

Nah, the old guy is biassed

Big L for the child

L

L

L

But will Sasuke still hate her?

Probably, he's very angsty.

Angsty boi.

I mean his brother murdered his family and tortured him....?

L

L

L

Jesus Christ.

They were rabid these days. He could barely go a step without hearing their madness. He also filled in on the plot. His sister was a main character (*oh the horror*) but she was not as important as her two teammates. Which he could tell just from hearing about them. A neglected loud blonde orphan who apparently had a demon(?) trapped in him, and an emo

pretty boy from a sacred clan who were all killed by his genius brother? Sounds like a problem to him.

It was....scary, mostly because of what might happen to Sakura, he sometimes wished he never came to care for her, it would be easier if his voices were right. She would lose and gain and lose again. He thought of leaving when she became a genin, she wouldn't need him then, she would be capable and looked over. But...

He was an anarchist at heart.

And hearing of the corruption in this world was hard. The leaf was considered the 'good' village. The best of all the evils. Few lived in freedom and those who did were considered dangerous and were hunted down. So he would not leave, for Sakura and Sensei and his youthful students.

He also heard that Kakashi-sensei would be Sakura's teacher. He had not trained with Kakashi since Gai's new students showed up, as his time was now mostly spent helping train them. He thought Kakashi *could* be a good teacher for her. But the team she was on could overshadow her (*Not if he had any say*) and she might not get any time for training. After all, he saw it almost happen with Tenten, it's what happens with the most stable one. They think they need less attention and leave them alone. But they will need attention and he makes sure Tenten gets hers while Sensei tries to get Neji to stop being so annoying and Lee up to standards. He taught her to use different strategies with her weapons, and he wanted to get her a sword or something to swing, as she almost entirely used long-range.

Chat cooed that he was fond of her because he was reminded of Sakura, like Tommy with Ranboo. He told Chat he would ban them if they kept talking nonsense.

He enjoyed teaching all of them, Lee was surprisingly capable. He was loud and....like Gai. But he was serious and dedicated to becoming powerful without being like everyone else. He enjoyed Lee in general, he was funny and sweet. And he still thinks he might be Gai's bastard child.

Neji was....difficult. He actually admires Neji on some level, capable and powerful despite his position being basically a slave to his uncle and cousins. A lesser house to the main branch. Techno can see why the kid is the way he is. But it was still annoying. All the talk of destiny was ridiculous (*Chat told him the kid wasn't wrong on some levels*) . He made sure to beat the kid a little for his attitude though, and he was still trying to convince the kid to take some medic lessons—it was not going well, he was unsurprisingly stubborn. He could be a great medic, especially with those eyes. And every team really should have a medic, and it should *not* have to be the girl—he almost hit Hyuga when he said that. Plus Tenten would be a horrible medic.

Maybe he should, violence, after all, solves everything.

He's now advocating for more guy medics— *no , it does not matter girls typically have better control!*— he would say Lee should be the medic, but...well....

But the team was coming together, Neji could find a weakness and he and Lee could run in and attack, Tenten will be supported or Tenten takes them out while they distract whoever. It was coming together, they worked very well. Gai was happy and he hoped they would participate this year since they skipped it last year.

The chunin exams had passed already, and the next ones were going to be held here. He hoped they didn't die for a simple promotion.

Chat was whispering about some characters coming up, they spoke of mist and a cool sword and a pretty boy(?). He looked up from where he was helping his father, they were at their store and would be setting up a stall near the arena for the chunin exams. Mom has been teaching him to stitch the clothes they sell, and he was very good at making jewellery so they typically had him do that, but they were busy with setting up so he was here. At their store. Alone.

The bell dinged as someone walked in, the light feet led him to believe it was a ninja. They came straight to the front desk and waited. He grimaced and stood, setting his stuff down and walked into the main room.

His monotone voice rang out, "Hello and welcome to—"

He blinked at the slim figure standing at the front. They waved gleefully and sat down a hand-weaved shirt and pants.

His silence made them say, "Hello Gai's little student, I am here to buy your wares."

"Aren't you my sister's teacher?" He bluntly asked, standing in front of him, "Don't you need to go see them and tell them about their test?"

Kakashi waved a hand, his grey-eye curled up in jest, "Ah, I got quite a few hours before I need to see them."

He seriously doubted that but okay, "Alright then." He went through the motions looking over the items collecting his money and telling him, "Have a good day."

Kakashi tutted and held out his hand, "Now, I actually did come for something else besides my new nightwear—"

"You wear nightwear?—"

"I need to talk to you about your sister," His body language never changed, at ease and relaxed—too relaxed.

"Okay," he went into the backrooms and picked his stitching back up.

The silver-haired figure followed him back at a slouched pace. Looking around the room, he hummed and sat next to him.

"Where are your parents?" He asked.

“Busy,” He told him.

“Ahhh,” He nodded, looking around the empty room, “Of course—I see you are also busy.”

He hummed, without looking up, “Very busy. What do you want?”

“Right to the point then?” His grey eye settled on him, “Sakura. What is she like?”

Techno snorted, *bruh*, “So you are actually going to be an active teacher?”

“I resent that,” He said casually, “But If you should know—I am given a little paper that tells me what the students are like and how they were. And the paper, for little Sakura, said she was a ‘ *quiet giggly girl who is shadowed by her much louder friends* .’ Now I have never met her but I recall some of the things you told me about her. Quiet and giggly doesn't sound quite right, hmm?”

Techno coughed loudly covering his sudden laugh, “No, no, no, that's perfectly accurate.”

“Sure,” He continued, “The next part was her grades. Great test scores— *unsurprising* —and good taijutsu— *surprising* —great chakra control and small chakra pool. So I have to ask, what should I do with her.” It was a statement, his eye looked serious staring at him. He was leaning forward slightly, “Because I have a jinchuuriki and the last Uchiha on this team and sadly they needed someone to fill out the ranks.”

Techno stared at his old sensei with almost red eyes, Chat was quiet in his head actually keeping their opinions to themselves, his voice was completely monotone when he spoke, “If you don't want anything to do with her, tell her—because you could get her killed.”

Kakashi was unfazed by Techno’s cold behaviour, “Sadly—that is what she's there for, to be a mediator for two much more *important* kids. But...”

Techno leaned forward slightly, hair swishing in front of his torso.

“...I happen to know her older brother who is extremely protective of his sister to the point of causing problems if something happens to her,” He finished, “And from what I heard about her is true—she's not going to be a mediator, she's going to cause just as many problems as the other two.”

Techno stared at Kakashi-sensei, “She loves to cause problems.”

He simply nodded his silver head, “Thought so.”

“I don't want her hurt,” Techno clawed those words out of his throat, “And I want her happy.”

“I doubt she will ever be happy in this line of business (unless she's secretly a raging psychopath) but I also want her safe. I want all of them safe and strong. So...” He leaned back in his chair, “Tell me about her.”

Chat burst into noise in his brain

Chapter End Notes

im willing to negotiate some to live
others...

not so much ;)

Sakura Two

Chapter Notes

guys

im sick, great right?

sorry its short, I was gonna include techno and sakura bonding but uh...

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

The silence was painful. They had been waiting for over two hours for their new sensei to show but nothing. Coming back after being told their teams was rough, they all avoided each other (besides Naruto). She knows she and Sasuke vanished for lunch. But now they sat in an empty classroom.

Naruto has gone from attempting to speak to her, to yelling at Sasuke and finally setting up a prank. Sasuke hasn't really moved from his desk, staring out into nothing dramatically.

She has been planning what she was going to do. This is arguably the worst team to have gotten. Not just because none of them really get along but because she has little chance to stand out. Sasuke *Uchiha* is literally the last Uchiha, one of the most powerful clans in the country and he was now her teammate. Naruto, while mostly annoying, was loud and eye-catching even compared to her and her hair. And as Kiba said, he had crazy amounts of chakra meaning *potential*. She didn't have any of those advantages. She hoped her brother and his crazy sensei were good enough.

But.... *two hours*?

Everyone else has left within minutes of being told their teams. Kiba and Ino left with their new Senseis, Kiba with a woman in red, and Ino with a bronze smoker. She hoped dearly that they passed and they all got to be genin together.

She thought of why they were put together, Ren's team was purely taijutsu—he had made a full spreadsheet of all of their abilities. They all had to do with strength and aggression.

But what is the benefit of putting all of them together? She was taijutsu focused at the moment, Sasuke was an Uchiha meaning he probably will be a ninjutsu and genjutsu user. And Naruto...is unpolished. He could be pushed into anything, but it would take a lot of focus and direction. Together they were extremely unbalanced. She hoped whoever they got was ready to work *a lot* with them.

Her green eyes peeked over at Naruto. He was setting up a trap on the door, she narrowed her eyes. *Was it for their Sensei?*

“I doubt that will work.”

A quiet snarky voice spoke, from the side. Sasuke was watching Naruto with narrowed eyes.

Naruto seemed ecstatic to hear someone speak, “It totally will! Nobody ever sees it coming!”

Sasuke scoffed, “Our sensei is a jounin, he will not fall for something so stupid—”

“He definitely could,” She cut in, “Just because they are a jounin doesn't mean they won't fall for something unexpected *especially* if it's harmless.”

Sasuke turned to her now uncrossing his arms, “If our Sensei is stupid enough to get caught in that then he's not gonna be any use.”

She glared at him, “A jounin of any kind will be far stronger than any of us, doesn't matter how stupid you think they are.”

Naruto attempted to put in, “Uh guys, are you okay—”

“Of course, it matters—I need to be strong and I won't have that with an idiot for a teacher,” Sasuke was leaning forward in his chair now, eyeing Sakura.

“I don't know if you noticed Sasuke,” She leaned to him as well, “But we are all trying to get stronger, not just you.”

“Uh, guys please this is really weird—”

“Right like you?” He said, “'cause you are so focused on fighting?”

She scoffed, “Obviously. Or else I wouldn't be here.”

He shook his head, “Yeah cause you're so capable—”

“Just because I don't have—”

A loud bang occurred. They all turned to the door. A silver-haired man with most of his face covered, and an eraser fell on his head.

All of their faces were strange. Naruto simultaneously looked like he was going to cry and laugh. Sasuke was startled and still annoyed. She was angry and also trying not to laugh.

He looked up at them, waves of dust falling off of his face, “My first impression—”

“I hate all of you.”

They all looked at each other.

“Meet me on the roof in five,” And then he vanished.

They all sat around their sensei, in painful silence. She had never seen Naruto so quiet, he looked so uncomfortable. Sasuke was glancing at them, looking annoyed. Sakura was frustrated but she held it in.

Their new teacher looked between them with a squinted eye, “Well, aren't you all just a ray of sunshine? Why don't you all introduce yourselves?”

Naruto looked between them, “Why don't you go first Sensei?”

He hummed, posture slouched, “Well. Alright, why not.” Sasuke straightened up, Naruto leaned forward looking very excited. He was practically bouncing in his seat.

“Okay I will say something I like, something I dislike and my dreams for the future and hobbies,” He nodded his head slowly, “Well, something I like and dislike,” He taps his finger against his mask before sighing, “No—my dream for the future?....No I don't think I will tell you. And I don't have any hobbies.” He straightened, seemingly smiling, “Okay! Blondie your turn!”

“What!?” He exploded, “You didn't tell us anything!” He stood on his chair between them, “You didn't even say your name!”

He blinked, “Didn't I? Oh well, it's Kakashi Hatake.”

Sakura's hand almost twitched, *where has she heard that name* ? “We still don't know anything about you.”

Kakashi looked at her, his droopy eye alert, “Hmm, well if you are a good ninja you will learn.”

She could see Sasuke tuning in, Naruto sat down and decided to introduce himself, “My name is Naruto Uzumaki! I like instant ramen but I really like the ramen from Ichiraku that Iruka-sensei gets me! I hate how long it takes to make ramen and my hobby is comparing ramen! And my future dream...” He stood, arms on their shoulders causing both of them to fall back slightly, “...To be the greatest Hokage! And then everyone will have to acknowledge my existence!”

They finally shoved him off and he fell onto his butt. She looked at him with wide green eyes, *acknowledging his existence* ? That is a strange dream, but he is all alone and so is....she peeked at Sasuke.

Kaskhi nodded his head solemnly, “Alright then, next you pinkie.”

She scowled at him, “My name is Sakura Haruno, and I like fighting with my friends and reading books, and I dislike feeling weak or useless. My dream is to get strong enough to beat my brother—” she ignored Sasuke's massive flinch,”—and my hobbies are....training, sewing and helping my friends!”

Kakashi looked interested and hummed, “Last one”

He glanced at Sakura, hands twitching in his lap, “I am Sasuke Uchiha, I hate a lot of things and I don't particularly like anything. I do not have a dream, I have ambition. Ambition to restore my clan and kill....a certain someone.”

Sensei looked bored suddenly, “Well that was enlightening, you are all just as expected—tomorrow we will our first mission.”

Sakura straightened, and she gathered her hands into a fist. Naruto *oohed* and *aahed*, and Sasuke was obviously interested even though he tried to hide it.

“Sensei, what is it?” Naruto demanded.

“Something very simple....”

“What is it?” He was pulling on his hair hard.

“A survival exercise.” He shrugged, a smile in his eye.

“Survival exercise?” He questioned.

Sasuke looked interested, she was confused, “B-but....” She held her tongue.

Kakashi leaned forward, “But what Sakura?”

“I thought,” She looked at her new teammates, “I thought you were going to test us.”

They were confused but Kakashi only slouched back, “Ah, yes that is what I am doing.”

“So is it a test or survival exercise?” Sasuke interrupted, his stupidly plucked brows furrowed.

Kakashi sighed before tutting, “Sakura, you ruined the surprise.”

“Wait! What’s going on?” Naruto was looking between all of them blonde hair flopping around.

“Sakura,” Sensei started, “Already knew about a special test that was supposed to be a surprise but I suppose this is fine.” He straightened, “Tomorrow at five a.m you will all show up at training ground seven, this survival exercise is my test.” He looked at her with his eerie all-seeing eye, “Did Ren mention the failure rate?”

She paled, “No...”

He looked between all of them with a certain amount of malice, “Sixty-six percent will fail.”

“Fail!?!” Naruto exploded, and he started pulling at his hair, “But why do we even have another test?”

“To weed out the best,” Kakashi deadpanned.

They all stared at him, and he smiled, “See you tomorrow, oh, and—”

“Don't eat breakfast, or else you'll puke.”

He vanished once again.

An awkward silence followed.

“So—”

“Bye!”

She jumped away, not looking back.

Chapter End Notes

someone kill me

also chapter 20!!!! woooooo *cough*

Kakashi One

Chapter Notes

my shortest chapter because next chap is the ENTIRE BELL TEST Jesus
I am so stupid excited for the chunin exams. I have plots!!! evil ones!!!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Kakashi was.... *excited* .

He did not mean that nefariously, he was genuinely excited but, he also was.... *curious* .
Which was not weird.

But the group is stuck with is not what he expected. And stuck with indeed, he got quite the dressing down by the Hokage about how *'this group needed to pass no matter what! blah blah blah....'* . He understood why this group needed to pass.

Sasuke Uchiha and Naruto Uzumaki. Two of the most important people in the village, and were soon to be ninjas. Children who he is now in charge of.

Sasuke was the easy one, he and Naruto were expected. Sasuke was quiet and angsty and all those great things that were expected. Naruto was loud and (*is so much like his mom*) excitable, and trying so hard. He expected a rivalry especially because they apparently already disliked each other. But they barely interacted, only Naruto was interacting with him but he wasn't aggressive or angry. He was just trying to talk to him.

The problem was Sakura.

She was why his expectations were shifted. Because Naruto just wanted attention not a rivalry, but Sasuke does want one. And Sakura being aggressive was making him shift his attention to her. It was funny, Sasuke unconsciously recognised that Naruto was not the threat. They would probably have a rivalry in a few days. This is forcing Naruto to become the mediator. Which he definitely didn't expect. He assumed they would all be at each other's throats but instead, it's Sakura and Sasuke hating one another and Naruto trying to get their attention.

He hoped they all calmed down at least. They ignored Naruto and started to hate each other, they didn't need to get so focused on anything else. It would not be....productive.

Anyway.

They all arrived right on time. He clocked Ren being nearby instantly. They all gathered on the grounds, looking around for him. There was a distance between Sakura and Sasuke mostly on her end. Instead, she was quietly talking with Naruto who (*Looked so much like his*

dad) and was ecstatic to talk to her, he chuckled at the small blush on his cheeks. Sasuke stayed away from them, glancing and curiously watching them. He clearly wondered what they were talking about.

He made his way next to Ren. He barely glanced at him, hair in the same braid as Sakura's. Theseus was standing next to him, digging his hoofs into the tree. His fur was darkening to a brown from pink.

"Come to watch the show?" He teased.

Ren grunted, "I'm here to watch her."

Kakashi cocked his head, silver strands falling into his pale face, "Make sure she's up to par?"

He hopped down, "No—make sure she doesn't kill her the Uchiha."

Kakashi laughed, "She told you about them?"

"Of course," Ren looked offended, "I had trouble even stopping myself from going after him."

He hummed, "Please no killing my cute little students."

Theseus snorted, "No fucking chance! I will happily fuck them up if I think they are too annoying!"

Ren's face twitched into a smile briefly, "Good, you could get away with it."

"Please don't encourage him," Kakashi deadpanned.

Ren actually cackled, "I will help hide the bodies."

Kakashi sighed, "Theseus is a bad influence on you."

"Fuck yea I am!" He looked up with big eyes at Ren.

Ren smiled small back, "The best." There was something sad in little Ren's smile, a nostalgia or sadness or both as he was no stranger to either.

They froze, yelling was coming from the field. Kakashi peeked out, they weren't yelling at each other; they were yelling for *him*. He let out a sigh.

"I think they want you," Ren mumbled.

Kakashi waved his hand, "They could wait a little longer it hasn't been that long."

He snorted along with his summon, "Has it been three hours?"

"Maybe four," He approximated.

Ren threw his pink hair back, “Yeah, bet they're regretting getting here that early.”

“Did you warn her?” He asked, curious.

He snorted, “No.”

He hummed, “Good, maybe they will use this time besides just waiting.”

“Not gonna happen,” He pats Theseus on his head, “Sakura is stubborn about the rules, she won't change unless she thinks she can get around them.”

Kakashi stared at the pair, “Or maybe one of the other two on her team will do it for her.”

Ren seemed thoughtful, “If she lets them.”

“We will see,” He murmured, “We will see.”

They stood in silence for a second before Kaksahi turned, “I think I better go now but watch for all of them. I don't want any of them left out.”

He substituted right next to the group. Waiting for them to realize he was here, he pulled out his book. He made it through one-fourth of the book before they noticed him. Unsurprisingly, the brooding Uchiha noticed him first. But he didn't tell the others just told them to shut up which of course went great.

“Why should we shut up?” Sakura yelled, quite the lungs on one so small.

“Yeah! We are just talking!” Naruto screamed just as loudly.

“Yeah, and if you were paying attention you would see that we are being watched,” Sasuke snarked.

Sakura went on alert, searching the area. She seemed to have trouble sensing him, as Naruto clocked him quickly.

“Sensei!” Naruto pointed, and Sakura followed his finger to him. She scowled the second their eyes met.

“Hello my cute little students,” He waved.

“You're late!” His two loudest members yelled.

“Sorry,” He jumped down, “I was trying to help clean some pigs.”

Naruto and Sasuke scoffed, but sweet Sakura seemed to believe him or maybe she knew her brother was around.

“Are you ready,” He continued, “to take the survival exercise?”

Sakura whispered ‘*test*’ and Naruto’s hand went up with his blue eyes sparkling, “What are we doing?”

Kakashi came to stand in front of them, “You will be taking one of these from me.” He held up a pair of bells, “Getting one will guarantee your passing.”

“But Sensei,” Sakura interrupted, “There are only two?”

“Yes,” He said simply.

They looked at one another, black eyes, green eyes and blue eyes. Finally, they came to his grey one. They looked determined. He found himself disappointed.

“This means one of you will go home,” He continued the speech, “You have until—” In the middle of his statement, Naruto ran at him. Going for a bell, he screamed. Kakashi sighed and held him back with little problems, “—my clock goes off at noon.”

They looked horrified correctly. He let go of the blond and stepped back and pulled out his device.

He leaned down and started the clock, “Ready...”

Naruto still looked shocked that his surprise attack didn't work. Sasuke was ready to run away and Sakura had her hands in the position ready to substitute.

“Begin.”

Chapter End Notes

I don't think much is going to change until the chunin exams too, the story is going to same similar-ish
tho SOMEONE is going to go something else!

Technoblade Two

Chapter Notes

holy shit I am a machine
this is grand

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Sakura substituted with a stick.

Techno thought she wasted too much energy too fast, as she was used to him chasing her down. Her chakra pool wasn't deep enough to use constantly. She will have to go in swinging to get a bell.

The emo Sasuke kid pulled the smartest move and just ran and hid his chakra. The kid was good but he was blinded by his pride. But he had the best chance at getting them on his own.

The worst chance was no doubt the blonde in orange. Mostly because he was standing right in front of Kakashi and shouting at him.

Techno sighed, "Kid is going to get screwed."

Thesues nodded intelligently, "Shit's so screwed."

Kakashi pulled out his smut and spoke. His mask moved up and down to his jaw closing and shutting and the kid rushed him.

He dodged easily, not even looking at Naruto as he attacked him. Techno thought of his first time-fighting Kakashi, it was brutal, he had never fought against someone who was so fast and could actually use their chakra with such efficiency. He had briefly been envious of the talent and abilities this world had kept from him. But he had never been a jealous person, only a possessive one. He kept his strength close and power quiet. Because it was his and he would only help those who he valued.

Kakashi vanished for a second and reappeared behind Naruto. He said something to him, turned his head and launched Naruto into the sky and then into a pond.

He hummed, "Inventive, you think kids gonna get it together?"

"No!" The small boar scratched his head, "He's gonna get right back into it."

His black red eyes trailed to the others, "Think they will help him?"

Thesues grumbled, "No, not unless they realise it's a trap."

“A trap,” he mumbled, “Sakura won't see it. She wants to win, and while she will help the others, she will not give up the chance to move ahead.”

Thesues looked at him confused, “I thought that's what you wanted her to do?”

“I do,” He sighed, “But Kakashi is cruel and he is what the village is and the village wants you to put aside your ideas in favour of theirs. Theirs which is to give everything for the village.”

“Ah,” He said, “So you think she might fail?”

Techno tapped his fingers together, “Unless her other members point out the obvious but for now, her eyes are locked on those bells.”

Shirukens flew out of the water which Kakashi caught. Naruto burst out of the water, and then another Naruto burst out of the water and then almost a dozen followed. They were all made for Kakashi, running at him (*real clones? Not fake ones?*) . Another Naruto jumped and restrained Kakashi seemingly shocking him. He went in for the punch and....

He punched another Naruto.

Perhaps a Body Flicker? Being able to move in the blink of an eye and replace his body with one of Naruto's is possible. It might be a clone and substitute but he doubts that.

He could see Sakura watching with squinted eyes, a keenness that he appreciated. She must have noticed that Kakashi was gone, but she hadn't noticed where he was. The Uchiha saw him and knew where he was.

He winced watching Naruto beat up himself, “How are killing machines so stupid?”

Tommy was!

Strictly dumbass.

Imagine not reading the art of war

Yeah, he really took being unexpected to another level!

He hasn't even drawn blood!

Blood~?

Blood

Blood !

Blood

Blood !

He shook his head hard. He could feel Theseus's eyes on him. His eyes and head pound for a few moments, and his hands came and grabbed his pink hair. He fell back slightly and crouched, putting his head between his legs.

His heavy breathing was broken by Theseus speaking, "Dumbass blond got himself caught in a trap—he's literally hung upside down! He thought wolf-man dropped one of the bells and tried to grab it! Of course, it wasn't real it was a trap and he so fucking stupid—"

Techno blinked his eyes and looked up at Theseus. Theseus was still rambling about what was happening, speaking faster and faster the longer Techno stayed quiet.

Theseus passed and saw he was now up and ran at him. Techno opened his arms and he ran right into them. He held his boar for a few moments before Theseus spoke in a voice in a whine, "Why'd you fall?"

He felt groggy, "Eh?"

"You fucker! You collapsed for no fucking reason," He burrowed deeper into his arms.

"Sorry," He grumbled, "sorry."

"You better be," He snorted.

They sat in silence before he stood and got back to his watching post. Naruto was upside down and lectured by Sensei.

Suddenly, shuriken came flying out of a tree. He followed the trail to Sasuke who was watching Kakashi.

They hit him hard and he flew back.

He snorted at Naruto screaming, "He thinks he actually got him? These kids have no respect for Sensei."

He was right. Kakashi vanished and a log took his place. A simple substitution. The Uchiha vanished running away now that his spot has been given away. Ironically this *would* have been the time to use jutsu as there is no way you are getting away from him without one.

Kakashi followed without a second. Leaving Naruto swinging from a tree.

Is she going to do it?

She has too!

If she is subtle enough!

His voice was arguing again then Sakura came running. She left her hiding spot and carefully made her way to Naruto. Extremely alert she launched a senbon through the rope with great accuracy. She ran to him and yanked him up. They spoke quietly and both turned and ran for the trees.

He followed them all lazily. Noticing that Kakashi had left Sasuke and was now going for the new duo.

They were running to a newly opened area, Sakura said something to Naruto who blinked and then nodded. They both began pulling out traps and other things.

“So how do you think they are doing?” A slow voice said.

“Okay,” He replied, “They are willing to work together but not with all three of them.”

Kakashi hummed, “Because they don't want to have to give up, plus they both know it would turn into a competition if Sasuke got one first.”

“It is smart,” He pushed, “They might get it.”

Kakashi simply eye smiled, “We'll see.”

Silver hair disappeared into the bushes. The two kids were almost done setting up traps and were now back-to-back with each other. Two Kakashi suddenly flew out of the trees at them. Instantly they pulled their traps and got into fighting positions. One of the Kakashi's popped when hit. The other made another clone and continued their way to Sakura and Naruto.

Then the other popped and vanished. He waited for the substitute. It appeared right next to Sakura. He said something and moved away and Naruto followed by yelling.

He narrowed his eyes at Sakura, “She's not moving.”

She looked like she was swaying and her hands were perfectly relaxed.

It clicked, “He put her in a genjutsu.” No wonder he lured Naruto away, he could easily snap her out of it if he stayed.

She suddenly yelled and he tensed. Sakura was shaking and collapsed to her knees as she stared at something in horror. He reminded himself that if he got involved Kakashi would definitely fail them *and* tell Gai sensei.

Her breathing was loud and panicked and she was yelling something.

“Ren...get up....Ren!”

Goddamnit Kakashi.

She would have to break herself out, he looked down at Theseus, “Watch her for me?”

Theseus nodded, “I will watch over her.”

He sighed and ran to Kakashi to catch up. He found him easily with Sasuke, not Naruto. He searched for him briefly, he was literally wandering around in circles. He was looking for something, he realised, and Naruto took off to find what he was looking for. It was... lunches.

Kids really didn't have breakfast?

He was of course ambushed by Kakashi and tied up to a pole.

The fight with Sasuke was interesting though. The Uchiha was genuinely good, even grazing a bell. He and Kakashi were impressed when the kid used Fireball jutsu but it was not very useful if your opponent could simply *move* .

Eventually, he got the kid with an Earth style and trapped him under the ground. Only his head was peeking out.

Theseus ran through the leaves into his arms, “Flower-girl is okay, she's coming this way!”

Techno nodded, looking at Sasuke's head, “She's going to have to deal with that.”

Theseus burst into laughter looking at him, “What an idiot!”

Sakura arrived and froze. She stared at Sasuke as if she couldn't believe he was real. She said something and he replied. She scowled at him and even he could read her lips.

“So you are real.”

She must still be alert from the genjutsu, which is fair. His weakness is also illusions usually.

They seemed to argue, and he moved closer to listen.

“—I'm not going to help you if you won't even help me!”

Ah, negotiation.

“Fine!” He snapped, annoyed, “If you help me I will help you and we can split the bells.”

“Good” She nodded and then proceeded to tear the ground out from beneath him. He shook himself off with a scowl. Sakura clenched and wiped her hands off her shirt. Suddenly he turned and started to walk away.

“Hey!” She yelled, “We have to come up with a plan!”

He simply paused, “It's almost noon, we have to hurry.”

She grimaced, “Naruto might have gotten one.”

“Naruto?” He seemed confused, “That idiot is probably still at the tree.”

She shook her head, “I got him out but Sensei...caught me.”

His black eyes narrowed, “I don't know why you even try to help him.”

Her face twisted in anger, “Well, I helped you didn't I?!”

“As if I needed it,” He turned and tried to walk away again.

She ran in front of him, “Maybe or maybe not, either way if it came down to it, I would help you and Naruto before abandoning either of you.”

Sasuke paused, his frame was frozen, “You would just be wasting your time. I am made for other things than being helped.”

Sakura’s hair swung around, “Everyone is made to be helped,” She glared at him, “Even if they are arrogant jerks.”

He stared at her about to speak when a ringing went off. They all turned to the noise. Sakura growled under her breath and Sasuke narrowed his eyes.

Sasuke seemed calm, “I wasted all my time talking.”

She took that personally, “And I wasted all of my time helping you.” She checked him and took off towards the ringing clock. Techno followed after her.

She looked confused seeing Naruto tied to a pole. Two others were on either side of him and she hopped up on the one to his left. She looked down at him, “What happened to you?”

His stomach growled loudly, “Ah, y’know got distracted.” He sunk into his rope face red.

She nodded, “Same.”

Sasuke showed up not a second later. He sat on the ground next to Naruto, crossed his arms, and said nothing.

Techno snorted and looked down at Theseus, “They still have a chance.”

“Do they?” He frowned, “Time went off.”

He nodded, “If they can figure out the challenge they can win—time doesn’t end until after lunch.” He remembered talking to Gai about this, about how Kakashi’s way to test teams seemed unfair since there was no way to get the bells. Sensei told him it wasn’t actually about the bells, it was about being a team and the best way to test if they could be a good team would be to pit them against one another.

Kakashi strolled in holding two lunches in his hands. He sat them on the ground and straightened up looking at the downtrodden pre-teens.

“I can hear all of your stomachs growling from here,” He hummed.

None of them spoke.

“But this exercise....none of you have to worry about going back to the academy!”

Oh, Kakashi was enjoying this.

They all looked surprised, Sakura spoke confused, “We passed? I didn’t even get to try for a bell.”

Only Naruto cheered.

“Yes, none of you have to worry about going back to the academy.” He clapped his hands together, “Because all you are to be banned from being ninja.”

Evil wolf-man, he could hear Theseus.

Naruto pulled at his rope, “So we didn't get a bell! But why do we have to be banned?!”

Sakura was frozen, her face stuck in horror. Sasuke looked away, upset and angry.

“That's because you, my little kiddies, don't have what it takes to become ninjas,” He said plainly.

Sasuke suddenly rushed Kakashi attempting to attack him. The other two gasped and Sakura hopped off her pole and held out a knife.

Kakashi had Sasuke pressed into the ground in a second, a foot on his back. He held Sasuke's arms in one hand, and he spoke quietly, “You kids think it's easy being a ninja?”

Suddenly, Sakura spoke up, “Get off him!”

Kakashi looked surprised, “Oh why should I? He attacked me.”

“Because...” She swallowed, “He doesn't deserve to have his face pressed into the dirt.”

“Yeah!” Naruto nodded, “He might be a jerk but he's just as upset as both of us!”

Kakashi looked pleased, he stepped away from the face down Sasuke. Sakura didn't move, only looked at Sasuke as he pulled himself up.

“Do you see it yet?” He asked, “Do you know why I did this exercise?”

They were confused, and Naruto spoke, “Wha-what do you mean?”

Kakashi shook his silver head, “You still have no clue about the answer to the test.”

“An answer?” Sakura mumbled.

“The answer,” He repeated, “That can determine whether you can pass.”

Sasuke looked away from where he now sat. Naruto was still confused but he could see Sakura slowly putting pieces together.

“The reason why you had this test...?” She asked.

Kakashi chuckled condescendingly, “Man you are guys brainless or what? Why do you think you were put in a three-manned squad?!”

Naruto shouted why but he could see that Sakura was getting it.

“Teamwork,” He said.

Sakura murmured something, “Speak up pinkie,” Kakashi-sensei said.

“They...wouldn't let two of us be on a team, only three,” Her face was pink.

“Yes, three,” He slouched forward, “If three of you came at me instead of just two (and even that wasn't well done—I mean one of you abandoned the other) maybe you would have been able to take the bells.”

“But...” Sakura gasped, “You only have two bells! You wanted us to fight!”

“No,” He shook his head, “I wanted you to get over the bells, it was all purposeful.” He looked his eye at Sasuke, “People who can prioritise the mission over their own selfish desires are the ones who will be ninjas. Yet, you Sakura! Refused to work with more than one of them, only ever focusing on making sure you were in the best spot to win. Naruto! You only went solo, never deciding to help and even abandoning when you saw an opportunity. And you,” His chakra was causing everyone to freeze, “Sasuke only ever saw them as a hindrance refusing help...even when it was offered.”

“The village works in squads!” He pressed, “In the chunin exams you take them in your teams, or you don't take them. It is no shock that indivisible skill is important but a team is far more. To act individually is to cause problems. For example...”

He moved instantly and a knife was held at Sakura's throat, “Sasuke kill Naruto or I kill Sakura.”

Techno's body almost moved, but he held back. Naruto shouted in shock and Sasuke froze looking between them.

“That is what could happen,” He pulled away from Sakura, “You become faced with an impossible decision and you must make an impossible choice and every mission becomes life-threatening.”

He walked towards a massive stone, “Do you see this?”

The kids stared at it.

“This with all its names engraved....” He looked lost in thought for a moment, “These are all heroes of the village.”

Naruto looked like he was going to speak but seemed to sense the tense feeling in the air. Sasuke stared at the memorial with sadness before turning around and walking back to his spot at the poles.

“These ninjas were all killed in action.”

Sakura quietly said, “They died for the village?”

“Yes,” He said monotone, “For the village...I know many people who are engraved on here.”

Techno watched quietly, slowly petting Theseus for comfort.

Kakashi started with little emotion, “I will give you one more chance.” He turned around to face them, “But after noon it will be much harder. Those not tied to the pole will eat lunch but you may not give any to Naruto.”

Naruto gasped, but Kakashi waved it away, “It's punishment for trying to eat before the time was up. And if anyone does feed him—that person is disqualified.”

“I am in charge here,” He looked at them all, “And you will follow my rules.”

He turned around and left.

They picked up their food to eat. Techno continued petting the small hog. He sighed, “This is a trap.”

“Of course, it is,” Kakashi sat next to him.

“You think they will succeed?” He asked.

“I think so,” He hummed, “If Sakura can put up with Sasuke then they should be fine.”

Techno licked his dry lips, “Why did you give Sakura that genjutsu?”

“Oh?” He said coyly, “That little thing?”

“What did she see?” He pressed.

Kakashi cocked his head, “The most important person in her life dying.”

He clenched his fist, “That is cruel, Sensei.”

“It is.”

“HE’S SHARING!” Theseus yelled, staring at a scene.

They looked out at the kids. Sasuke was sharing his food with Naruto and Sakura was watching. She looked conflicted before giving some of her food to him as well. Naruto looked like he might cry.

“Well,” Kakashi said, “That is my cue!”

He vanished to scare some kids.

Techno sighed, picking up Theseus and tucking him to his chest.

Kakashi appeared suddenly, scaring them.

“YOU THREE!” Lightning came from the sky.

He’s so dramatic.

“You defied me!” He dramatically yelled, “Do you have anything to say?”

They covered their faces as the wind wiped around them. Sakura covered her ears and Sasuke got into a fighting position.

Naruto floundered, “But...But you said...”

“What?!” Kakashi demanded.

“You said we need to work together!” Naruto finished.

“We are a three-man team!” Sasuke followed.

“We must work as one!” Sakura ended.

“That’s your excuse,” Kakashi raised a brow, “‘You must work together’ huh? Well...” He leaned back, “You...pass!”

They blinked at him, completely surprised.

“I’m impressed,” He hummed as the sky was clearing, “I’ve never had any kids actually disobey me before.”

“But I thought we would fail...” Sakura said.

“A ninja must see through deception,” Kakashi said, he seemed nostalgic, “And you were able to see around my traps.”

Sometimes it's easy to forget who Kakashi is.

“A ninja who breaks the rules are scum but those who abandon their friends are worse than scum.”

They stared at him with awe.

“Team seven starts their first mission tomorrow!” He announced.

Naruto burst into happy tears. Sakura jumped and yelled. Sasuke seemed to relax into the ground, finally able to ease himself.

“I’m a ninja!” Naruto and Sakura yelled.

Kakashi looked to be actually smiling, not the fake one that he always does, but a real one.

Techno sighed, holding Theseus tightly listening to chat cheer. He hoped Sakura was happy, for she was stuck with these kids for a long while.

At least Kakashi was instilling them with better ideas than what the village told them.

....Those who abandon their friends are worse than scum....

Chapter End Notes

the easiest way to write kakashi is to just never have him say please.

Technoblade Three

Chapter Notes

okay wave is coming.
I love Haku so much <3

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Techno found a certain amount of glee in seeing Sakura realise what type of missions they were going on. They apparently don't tell students the rank of missions they get when they become ninjas. He fondly recalls Gai's students being told what their first mission was.

Lee cocked his head, big dark eyes wider than normal, "What do you mean dog walking?"

Luckily Gai sensei was a master at combining missions and training. Thus it ended with everyone spiriting around the village with massive dogs running alongside them while he, Techno, chased them with Theseus. It was the first of many D ranks for the baby-killing machines.

Nowadays team Gai takes high D ranks and even C ranks. He even heard that they were being requested for a B rank which was extremely rare for any genin to take but they apparently trusted Gai sensei when he told them all of his students were as capable as chunin.

But Sakura and her team knew none of that. They seemed to be under the same assumption every new team is. That they were going to go rescue princesses and kill missing-nin.

Sakura walked into the main room covered in mud, he could hear mom hiss under her breath. He smirked, "How was your first mission?"

She glared at him, "I don't want to talk about it."

He hummed looking at his book, "Was it digging up a garden or searching for Tora?"

An angry silence followed, and suddenly Sakura rushed after him, "YOU KNEW!?"

She chased him all around the house before mother threatened to make them sleep outside.

The mission was actually, according to Sakura, a simple fence-fixing mission. But she and Naruto had started playing and Sasuke joined and it quickly became a competition that ended with them all falling into the mud. He questioned how it got that bad but Sakura went very red.

Kakashi sensei was making them take at least two missions per day. Honestly less than Gai, who demanded they go through four after training. Training was brutal with Gai, he made everyone wear weights after Techno suggested it after he started giving Lee them. Everyone had to run in weights but for different purposes. For example, Tenten had arm weights for her throwing and some leg weights for speed. Neji had core weights and shoulder weights for his balance and special taijutsu. And Lee had weights on his arms and legs, mostly his legs, for speed and endurance training. They wore these at all times unless they had a special reason to take them off.

Kakashi hadn't started their training yet apparently. He was having them all take missions where he would sometimes just vanish and then reappear by the end. If Techno had to guess, it would be that he was testing to see how they handled the missions in the first place before starting the intense training that Techno (does *not*) fondly remember.

Techno has started showing up more for Gai's training, still trying to convince Neji to take medic training, he's noticed Lee and Gai bonding. They wore the same ugly green bodysuits, Lee cut his hair into the same hair as Gai, and he has seen them walking around the village together. Just the two of them.

If Lee was not technically an adult he would think Gai was trying to adopt him.

He also would like to say he is not biased for Tenten, *that is a lie*.

But, sometimes she reminds him of Sakura. They have the same fire and drive and wit. Tenten *was* different; she was much less 'girly' and put little value into her appearance, she was much more focused on skill. He was right about her being a bit of a traditionalist. She didn't seem to care or try techniques that were out of the field she wanted into. Convincing her to even test her nature was rough, she fully believed she didn't need to. In the end, he just got Gai to make them all take the test except Lee.

Neji was better and worse. He turned out to be an excellent teammate and second-in-command. But his constant need to be right and make comments was driving everyone up the wall. Lee and Neji had gotten into a rivalry of some kind. Lee wants to be like Sensei and prove Neji wrong about him, was making Lee train a crazy amount. He was as bad when Techno was first brought into SMP. No sleeping, only work.

He's proud to say his impact has been helpful. He's gotten Tenten a long sword because there is no way she doesn't grow up to be tall. Her hand-to-hand combat was much better and though she rarely used ninjutsu he forced her to be fast on her feet.

He and Lee practise hand-to-hand. He shows him how he has worked around his flaws and fought people like Kakashi sensei. He's proud to say that Lee is fast, a natural with speed and endurance. He doubts he will ever hit as hard as him but he might grow to be as fast.

Gai has also made sure to keep his practice up. They had trained once in front of the other kids.

"Ready?" Gai's teeth sparkled.

“Yes,” He deadpanned.

They flew at each other. Jumping high into the sky and using their strength and skill to raise the other up. He was nowhere as good as Sensei but keeping up was easier and he used his axes to his advantage.

They fought for over an hour before landing back on the ground.

Lee’s big eyes were glowing, clapping his hands quickly, he was shouting, “Amazing! I aspire to work as hard!”

Tenten's mouth dropped, “Ho-how do you even do that?”

Neji’s pale eyes were wide, “That's impossible.”

Techno was proud that he destroyed their perception of skill in one hour.

It's interesting to see Sakura change with her becoming a genin, she was with her team for long hours and was exhausted when she came home. She would also bring home her earnings with pride that made her glow. Some items brought home were not even money, but things given to them by the people who they help. She's brought home a pair of sewing needles, a children's story, a dozen chicken eggs and finally a photo of her team. Kakashi, Naruto, the Uchiha and her.

She walked home again looking much happier than normal, he raised his brow while counting through their money, “Why are you so happy?”

She was covered in dog hair, “We helped the Inuzuka today! Kiba was there with his team and we got to clean some of their dogs!”

“Oh?” He really hasn't met any of her friends, “How is his team?”

“Okay,” She shrugged, “Hinata is really shy and Shino is too, so Kiba complains they don't really interact with each other. They kinda just do whatever he says unless Shino has an idea. Other than that...” She shrugged again.

“And your team?” He felt like their father.

She looked considering, “It's...getting better. Naruto’s alright, he and Sasuke bond over trying to be the best. And Sasuke and I are okay although we still get into fights.”

“Do you win?” He asked.

“Not really,” She grumbled and sat next to him, “Sensei won't allow any fighting but the only time we can fight is in the morning when Sensei’s gone.”

“And?” He pressed.

“He’s too good,” She huffed, “I don't know any of his moves, he barely uses the academy style and I can only win if I exhaust my chakra and Kakashi sensei chastised me the last time

that happened.”

He peeked at her, “Has Kakashi taught you anything?”

She huffed, “No! Nothing, he just keeps giving us boring missions! Not even the interesting ones, just boring easy ones!”

He furrowed his brow, “Strange I remember him being a very diligent teacher.”

“It's driving Sasuke and Naruto crazy too,” She said, “Naruto is going stir-crazy with the lack of an outlet and Sasuke isn't being challenged in the slightest.”

She sighed standing, “I'm going to change.”

Kakashi was a patient man. But purposefully keeping them behind in missions? They apparently haven't taken a single difficult D rank and it's been over a month since they became ninjas.

Maybe he's just waiting for the right opportunity.

The right opportunity was apparently only a week away as Sakura came running in figure blurring as she ran into the house.

They all stared at her from the table, their father blinked at her, “What are you doing?

She was rushed and messy, “I have a C rank!”

Eh?!

Chapter End Notes

good filler huh??

we gonna get some fun character interactions!

Sakura Three

Chapter Notes

anyone ever wonder why the kids didn't know about the Uchiha?

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

“First aid kit?”

“Check.”

“Extra clothes?”

“Check.”

“Weapons?”

“Yep.”

“Bedroll?”

“Mhm.”

“Should I pack extra bandages?”

“Sure.”

“Ren, what about food?”

“Fine.”

“Ren, what about water?”

“Alright.”

“No—should I take more?”

“Yep.”

She turned her head to her brother, a scowl on her face, “Ren! Do I need more water?”

He turned his head towards her, and he blinked sluggishly, “If you want.”

Sakura looked out the window at the black, quiet sky, “I only have a few hours. I want everything perfect.”

“Sakura,” He sighed, pushing his elbows under him, “You have all you need, and you do not need any more; especially if you don't want any.”

“But what if I need more?” She groaned, rubbing her eyes roughly, “I want to have enough if Sasuke or Naruto lose theirs.”

“You do not need to make up for them,” He reasoned, unbothered from his spot on her bed, “Besides you will have Kakashi and he will take care of anything that's needed.”

She grumbled, “If he even shows up.”

Ren narrowed his dark eyes at her, “You distrust him that much?”

She folded her clothes carefully, “I just—he doesn't take anything seriously! He's rarely even there when we have missions, and he just eggs us on when he is there.”

“Eggs you on?” He asked doubtfully, “Are you sure you aren't talking about someone else?”

She glared at him, “Yes I'm sure, I just wish he would...” She faltered, “I just want him to actually treat us like his students.”

His back-length pink hair was displayed all around him, “I think he's worried your team wouldn't be suited to his style of teaching.”

She slowed her folding, and suspiciously glanced at him, “How?”

“He might be waiting for the moment you all decide to...” He paused, “Get serious.”

She jumped up, “It was you!”

He blinked at her, “What?”

“Kakashi-sensei! He sounded familiar and I just realised where I heard of him,” She pointed at him dramatically, “From you!”

He was not surprised, he raised an eyebrow with no other expression, “Yes?”

Her face dropped, “Weren't you keeping that a secret?”

“No,” He deadpanned, “I will be more impressed if you knew *how* we knew each other.”

‘Knew each other,’ She mouthed to herself, she sat again and continued packing, “You also call him Sensei, and you know his teachings....” A light bulb went off, “You were a student of his!”

Dark eyes closed and a long breath was exhaled, “I was.”

“No wonder you preach about him being so capable,” She mumbled.

“Cause he was,” He murmured, he was half-asleep in her flowery bed, “He kicked my ass.”

She gasped, “Yo–You....you got your ass kicked?”

He snorted, only for his snort to immediately turn into a laugh, “Yes, he made sure I knew what I was doing and showed me what typical ninja fighting looked like.”

“Because your teacher is like you, right?” She finished up her packing, zipping up her bag and sitting it to the side.

“Yep,” He said, “Not exactly but similar enough.”

Her eyes looked up at him, “Why isn't he your teacher anymore?”

He didn't move as she started braiding his hair, “Because.”

“Because?” She dryly mocked.

“Because,” He ignored her, “he had other things to do and Gai-sensei wanted his student back.”

She stood and lay next to him, “Do you know what he was doing?”

He adjusted himself, “He probably was dealing with the Uchiha fallout.”

She paused, “Them dying?”

He opened his eyes, “With them being slaughtered.”

“Slaughtered?” She quietly asked, “Everyone just says they died and Sasuke was the last one.”

He went silent.

“Tell me,” She demanded.

He looked at her and groaned, “I only know because I was told by Sensei.”

She stared at him.

“In the middle of the day and through the night, every single one of the Uchiha’s was killed before anyone even knew what had happened,” His eyes were lost, “The only one to have lived was Sasuke Uchiha, the brother to...Itachi Uchiha.”

A shiver went up her spine, and she burrowed closer to her brother.

“Itachi Uchiha, who was one of the youngest in ANBU ever,” He paused, “Was the one who killed and slaughtered all of them, including his parents.”

“His brother found them, and he was put into a days-long coma and woke to find out he's the last of his kind,” He closed his eyes again.

“You're good at storytelling,” She whispered, she felt sick to her stomach. She thought of grumpy and arrogant Sasuke, she thought of losing her parents and everyone around them, and she thought of her brother being the cause. She hugged her brother tightly and tucked her face against his side.

He hugged her back, running his long fingers through her hair. There was a painful pause before he quietly spoke into the suddenly too-bright room, “Do you remember when I told you about those stories when you were smaller?”

She nodded slowly.

“The stories of giants and gods?”

She nodded again.

“I loved those because I liked how they ended badly,” He told her like it was a secret he never would tell anyone.

She mumbled, “Mom didn't like you telling me those. She wanted them to be happier.”

“But they aren't happy,” He said plainly, “And they aren't happy for a reason; they are meant to be warnings.”

She pulled her face out and looked at him with red-rimmed eyes, “Of what?”

“Be careful,” He whispered, “People are unpredictable and they will not be kind if they are allowed to be cruel.”

She stared at him, “Why did he kill his family?”

“I have no idea,” He lied.

She woke tired.

Her nights were filled with tossing and turning. Unable to get her brother's tales out of her head. She was reminded of when she had stolen his books when she was young. The books were scribbled in with notes and comments. She thought it was strange, the names that were written, the ideas he stated and the nostalgic comments. These days she wonders if he wrote in code.

Who would be called 'Dream' and 'Bad'?

He spoke like that sometimes. In codes and stories. The Uchiha tale left her shaken like his old books used to. It brought her a chill in her bones she couldn't be rid of.

It stayed with her as she dressed. Grabbing her bag and putting her hair into a ponytail that fondly reminded her of Ino.

Her breakfast was fast and easy, she could eat much more. Her parents were both gone, and Ren was out.

Ren had left her something on the table. It was one of his books, it was a story about the Uchiha and Senju wars. She flipped through it smiling at his notes and stopping at the end. In the perfect script, Ren had written,

See all sides. Not every side is the good one. Sometimes tales are written by the losers.

She packed it into her bag, feeling much warmer she left to meet with her team.

They were escorting a drunk bridge builder to his home in Wave. Water Country was close but notoriously wild in comparison. But the mission was a C rank and C ranks were not dangerous. Only B ranks and higher dealt with any fighting.

Her stomach clenched with dread anyway.

She stood at the gate with unease. The guards had dismissed her quickly, they'd seen her waiting. They would be showing up in an hour and then they would leave Konoha.

The silence at the exits of the village was eerie, few people left to wave. Fewer people came from Wave.

She could hear thumps on the ground behind her, "Nervous?"

Her breath was shaky, "Sensei—No I'm not."

A low hum and he came closer, "Liar."

She turned to him sharply, "You knew my brother."

Kakashi-sensei blinked his eye at her, "*Knew* ?" He didn't die Sakura, I still know him."

"But you knew him, this whole time while teaching me," She clenched her fists.

"I did," He stood next to her, "I even talked to him while teaching you."

"You still talk to him?" she asked.

"All the time," He chuckled, "He's with Gai mostly and he pesters me constantly, plus he reminded me of someone."

"Who?"

He eye smiled, "Myself."

She stared at him with wide eyes. He waved his hand, "I'll be back later—tell the boys I will see them when we leave."

She watched him leave a new epiphany. A sudden understanding of why Kakashi-sensei acted the way he did.

He doesn't want to get attached in case we die.

The thought left her colder than this morning and as comforted as Ren's hugs.

Chapter End Notes

did someone say comfort? and angst?

Sakura Four

Chapter Notes

sorry these chapters are kind of hard to write frustrating at least.
We are going to be seeing what Techno's up to next chap!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Sasuke showed up first. He had a small bag, big enough to fit first aid and clothes and nothing else. He didn't glance at her as they awkwardly stood on opposite ends of the walkway.

Their employer, Tazuna, showed up next, he was still drunk and rude and she didn't look forward to escorting him for a few days. He scoffed at her when she tried to ask him if he should be drinking. He seemed to sense that she might attack him if he kept chugging, so he slowed a bit.

Naruto showed up close to the departure time. Luckily Kakashi sensei was, of course, late so it gave her time to help him empty out his overfilled bag. He blushed bright red and apologised the entire time, but she couldn't blame him. She was also excited, Ren had gotten to leave the village for a brief time and he seemed happy. She could understand it was even better for Naruto, he was glared at and turned away from everywhere they've gone. She thought it might have been his prankster behaviour but she doubted it.

They all waited for sensei, comparing the items they held and trying to steal Tazuna's bottle. He showed his silver messy head right after on the dot. Smiling at them and patting their heads. They waited for his approval.

"Is everyone ready?" He asked.

"Yes!" Naruto cheered, "Sakura helped me sort through my bag to have the best stuff!"

"Oh good," He turned away, he looked at Sasuke and her, "Anyway."

The doors were pulled open by the chunin sitting at a check-in-stand. Kakashi waved to them, and they cautiously waved back before telling them to alert them if anything happened.

The outside was just as green as the rest of fire country. Trees are taller than anywhere else thanks to the First Hokage. Humid temperatures with flowers and thriving ecosystems. It was no wonder the Senju and Uchiha settled here.

She breathed in the smells of the outside. Her eyes took in every little detail.

“Alright,” Kakashi said nonchalantly, “We should be back in only a few days, four at most. We are escorting Tazuna the bridge builder to his home in wave country. Everyone ready?”

They nodded, and he nodded, “Okay.”

He stepped outside the gates and into the forest. They slowly followed.

Naruto was glancing wildly, running ahead of everyone to look around, “And we're off!”

Tazuna scowled at the energetic blonde, “What are you so excited about?”

His footsteps were quiet on the soft dirt, “I've never been outside Konoha before!”

“Hm,” Tazuna peered over his small circular glasses, looking over at their sensei, “Am I really safe with this twerp?”

Kakashi answered, “No need to worry, I'm a jounin. I'll be watching over everything.”

Naruto's eyes twitched, “Watch it, old man! I'm going to be Hokage one day!”

“The Hokage?” He drank his alcohol deeply ignoring the glare from Sasuke and Sakura, “The strongest leader of the village? Yeah, you sure seem like the type.”

Naruto pointed at him, “Shut up! I will do whatever it takes!”

“As if you'll be Hokage,” He jeered childishly.

“I'll get you!” Naruto attempted to launch himself at the old man. Sakura cheered Naruto on and Sasuke was clearly trying not to smile. Kakashi grabbed the flailing child, “Naruto, we can't kill our employer.”

Tazuna grinned smugly and continued walking. Sakura grimaced at him and Sasuke glared, they nodded in solitude to each other. *This guy sucks.*

They continued walking in silence.

Sakura walked next to Naruto peering at him, “Why do you let him bother you?”

Naruto looked at her shocked, “What do you mean?”

“You let him bother you,” She explained, “You should just ignore him.”

Naruto suddenly scowled at her, “Easy for you to say! He isn't saying anything bad about you!”

She blinked at him, “I threatened to steal his bottle and hit him with it.”

“Huh?” His jaw dropped.

“Before you got here,” She continued, “He tried to talk down to me so I told him not to.”

Naruto let out a loud giggle, “And Kakashi wasn't here to stop you?”

“Nope! He was late and now he's scared of me,” She grinned.

“I wish Kakashi would let me fight him,” He was suddenly despondent, “Maybe then he would stop criticising me.”

She blinked, she didn't even know he knew that word, “But you do keep responding.”

“Yeah, so?” He kicked at the dirt.

“Tazuna just wants to bother someone,” She told him, “He seems kind of nervous, and he's been drinking constantly. Makes them lash out and can cause extreme paranoia.”

He looked at her, “Woah, where did you learn that from?”

“A medic book,” She proudly stated, “It covered the mind and effects done to the mind.”

“Wow, Sakura,” He gazed at her, “You sound like a real doctor!”

She blushed slightly, “Thanks but I'm a ninja so I would be a medic-nin.”

“Every team should have one,” Kakashi cut in.

They were startled at his intrusion, “It was decided all teams should have a teammate who can provide medical help in case of an emergency.”

Her mouth was an oval, “So who's going to be on our team?”

He simply eye smiled.

They journeyed further into the woods.

The sun was high in the sky, so they stopped for lunch. Their feast of granola bars and fruit was delicious. Sakura could feel a subtle change in the air as they got closer to the much more humid and wet wave country.

“Are there any ninjas in Wave?” Sakura asked.

“Not quite,” Kakashi said.

“Not quite in Wave?” She was baffled, “Every other hidden village and country have a ninja.”

“The five great nations all have different cultures when it comes to ninjas,” He explained patiently, “And Wave used to have ninjas as we do but....things happened.”

She grumbled.

“Besides,” He ruffled her hair, “There are no battles on a C rank.”

They all felt slightly comforted before, “Of course not.” Tazuna mumbled into the silence.

She noted Sasuke eyeing the drunk and Naruto looking nervous. She patted her leg where her weapons rested.

Never back down from a fight.

Chapter End Notes

god re-watching Naruto for this I realize how much exposition is dumped.
shortest chapter im afraid

Technoblade Four

Chapter Notes

OOoooOoo setting up for chuinin exams?!?
going to be another techno chap after this. Then Sakura.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Techno wanted to be there for Sakura to leave. To give her his book and notes, and to tell her his support and happiness for her (*Even if doesn't support anything she serves—he's still allowed to support her*) . But Gai-sensei had a mission for him.

“I don't know why we aren't with flower-girl,” Theseus huffed, walking alongside him.

“Because Gai-sensei is having us do something,” He explained dryly.

“Are we training with the minions?” He asked confused, walking alongside him.

“Probably not,” He snorted, “Gai-sensei said it was something I haven't done yet.”

“But you've done everything,” Theseus stated, cocking his head at him.

“Sure,” He drawled, “I have.”

Theseus continued to look confused all the way to the main mission centre.

Gai-sensei was waiting for him at the entrance. His team were probably off on their own missions.

“Ah, young Ren!” Gai called.

“Hello Sensei,” He said respectfully.

“Come!” He waved his hand, “You are almost late!”

“Late?” He and Theseus parroted.

“Yes, yes!” He walked in. They followed in close behind him.

He has never been to the ninja mission centre before. It had multiple entrances, some for civilians and some for ninjas. The mission desk was in the middle of the building and was run by some chunin. People moved out of the way of Gai-sensei, his height and build persuaded people away. He was built massive even for a ninja.

They came to the mission desk being run by a man with a scar on his nose, “Hello Gai.”

“Ah, Iruka!” Gai proudly stated, “I am here to volunteer my student for genin work!”

What.

No! Sensei has betrayed us!

I don't want to serve!

Anarchy!

ANARCHY!

“This him...?” The chunin, Iruka blinked while looking baffled, “....Sakura?”

“I am not Sakura,” Fell out of his mouth.

He blinked again before chuckling, “I didn't think you were actually Sakura I just thought you looked very similar to her,” He looked down at a paper, “Haruno’ huh? Siblings?”

His face was very red, “Yes.”

Gai put a hand on his shoulder, “My youthful student is Sakura’s older brother!”

Iruka smiled, a warm thing that reminded him of Phil, “I see, well in that case I'm sure you will have no problem with this team,” he handed Gai some documents, “It should be an easy one.”

“Good!” Gai cheered and led the heavily awkward Ren away.

They were sitting in a park when Ren came down to reality. Gai sensei was reading through the documents, nodding and mumbling under their breath. Theseus had made his way into his lap and was gnawing on his rings and hand.

He came back quickly, “Wait what?”

Gai blinked at him, “You are back then?”

“What team of genin?” He asked, using his other hand to start petting his boar.

“I'm glad to see you well,” Gai cheered before clearing his throat and kneeling next to him, “But this mission I am giving you is very easy and will benefit you immensely.”

“What mission with genin?” Theseus was almost purring, vibrating his whole body.

“I’m sure you have noticed that the Chunin Exams are coming up,” He explained, “Because of them coming up many of our chunin and jounin are having to work to set up and use their time elsewhere besides their genin.”

“So?” He asked blandly.

“So when the time comes for the Chunin Exams, they ask people to volunteer their time to watch over genin teams,” Gai-sensei continued, “And you as my long-term student and working with Tenten and Neji and Lee, you would do well working with a genin team.”

“What team?” He was horrified.

“This is,” Gai-sensei pointed to the tallest member who was yawning, “Shikamaru Nara,” Then the blonde girl who was looking at him extremely critically, “Ino Yamanaka,” And then the kid eating who waved at him, “And Chouji Akamichi.”

“They,” he smiled, “will be the team you will be watching over while their sensei helps with the chunin exams.”

He stared at all of them with little expression, “How long?”

“Just for a week,” He soothed.

“Do I...” He looked between all of them, “Take them for missions?”

“You will,” His bowl cut shined in the light, “Do not worry! Asuma has assured me this is a quality team!”

He eyed their lazy demeanour, “I bet.”

The girl, Ino, scowled at his words but the lazing boy, Shikamaru, snorted. Chouji just continued eating.

“All you have to do is take this team to Iruka and ask for a mission and do it,” Gai assured, “I will check in in three days.”

He patted him on the shoulder and then left.

Techno slowly turned to look at the three.

“Aren't you going to tell us your name?” Shikamaru raised a brow.

“I—”

“Why do you look like Sakura?” Ino burst out.

“I am—”

“He's her brother,” The Nara stated.

“HER BROTHER?!” She yelled.

“Th—”

“I thought she said he wasn't a ninja?” Ino was looking her eerie blue eyes at her teammate.

"I am n—"

"Well he obviously at least is a student of a ninja," He looked annoyed at her attention.

Techno was slowly receding into himself listening to his Chat wishing Gai let him bring Theseus.

Shika is at least important!

Ino's the same.

I hate kids.

Same we should kill them

Kill!

I mean they are friends with sakura.

KILL!

KILL

KILL

I don't think we should.....

But plot!!!!

"Do you want a chip?"

He turned his head to Chouji, who was holding out his chip bag. Chouji was smiling offering his last chips.

"...sure."

"Don't worry about them," He nodded towards his now arguing teammates, "This happens sometimes."

Techno chomped on his chip, "I'm Ren." *Technoblade*

"Nice to meet you," He replied, smiling.

Techno chewed on another chip, "You too."

Maybe some kids weren't that bad , he thought.

;)

Technoblade Five

Chapter Notes

chaos, chaos, chads!
I really enjoyed this one.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

“What missions do you have?” Techno asked blandly.

Iruka blinked his warm brown eyes, “For D ranks we have, ‘catching Tora,’ planting a garden, cleaning some pig stalls....”

Techno turned to look at the three students standing behind him. Shikamaru wasn't paying attention, Ino was still scrutinising him, and Chouji was giving him a thumbs up (*Chat had become big fans of Chouji*) He turned back to the chunin, “Do you have any multiple day-long missions?”

“Multiple days?” Iruka dug through his papers, “We don't normally have long D ranks but....” He pulled out a file, “This is technically a C rank but long days can spread it out to a long D rank.”

He handed it to him, “A training ground clean?”

Iruka nodded, “It's typically done by low-ranking chunin but If spread out and done carefully enough it can work as a long D rank.”

“Will it be put down as a C rank?” Ino cut in.

Shikamaru let out a groan and Chouji seemed curious.

“I can't put a D rank for this mission,” Iruka stated, “So it will have to be put as a C rank.”

Immediately Ino cheered, Shikamaru covered his ears and Chouji pulled out his chips.

Techno nodded, “We'll take it.”

Iruka smiled, “Okay then.”

They left the mission centre with a document to clean Training Grounds eight and nine. He suddenly stopped on the walkway. He was almost bumped into by the three.

“Hey! Why'd you stop?” Ino asked.

“I need something to watch over you,” He realises.

He wondered if this was a bad idea. He heard Chouji lean over and ask Shikamaru why they needed someone watching over them.

Techno pulled out the scroll attached to his deep red pants. He carefully unrolled it and laid it on the ground. He hoped he wouldn't faint as he bloodied his fingers and pressed them to it.

A puff and Theseus were sitting there. He stood shaking himself, "Finally! I was wondering how long I had to be fucking stuck there!"

He could hear the three jaw drops, and he smirked, "I need three pigs."

Theseus's eyes widened, "Wha—What the fuck!? How could you?! I thought we had an understanding?!"

"Not for me," He gestured with his chin to his new students, "I need them to watch these three."

"Fuck," Theseus snorted, "Fine, three fucking pigs."

Techno nodded and carefully summoned his pigs. A small poof and three small blobs appeared. The first was covered in purple and black markings and was light pink in colour. The second was the smallest and was a blue colour with thick brown fur around his head and hooves. The last was the biggest and almost entirely covered in mud with red skin peeking through.

He blinked at them, he forgot summons don't necessarily look like the actual animals.

"Aw," Ino gushed, pushing forward, "They are so cute!"

"Yeah, yeah," Theseus grumbled, "Fucking adorable pricks."

He found himself smiling at Theseus's jealousy, he leaned over and picked him up, "Do they have names?"

"Probably," He huffed, burrowing into his arms, "But their sire didn't say anything."

Ino was still gushing over them and Chouji came over and held out his food to them. Shikamaru stepped closer and looked over at them.

"They're all girls," Shikamaru observed.

The pigs didn't say anything and continued eating and enjoying the attention.

"They don't speak?" Ino asked.

Theseus scoffed still in his arms, "No—they are babies."

Ino gushed even harder.

“Okay—” He looked between them, “Names. Swirls you are Lachesis, blue you are Clotho and muddy you are Atropos.”

The kids gave him weird faces, Shikamaru raised a thin brow, “Strange names.”

He simply nodded his pink head, “Yep.”

I love Greece.

Beautiful place...

The three sisters of fate huh?

Life, death and inevitability.

They would be so upset to be fucking pigs

E for the girls

E

E

E!

E <3

“Chouji you get Clotho, Lachesis you watch Shikamaru and Atropos you Ino,” He dictated.

“What!?” Ino disagreed, “Why can't I have...Cloth-o?”

“Clotho,” He corrected, “Because the names mean something and Atropos suits you more.”

“But what does—” Shikamaru started.

“HEY!” Theseus screamed, “Why don't you just be happy that he's giving you one at all?!”

They all stared at him before Chouji leaned over and picked up the tiny Clotho into his arms. She snorted, startled, before adjusting herself and settling down, he smiled, “I’m ready!”

Shikamaru looked at Lachesis and her swirly figure, “I'm not carrying you.”

She looked deeply offended.

Ino looked at Atropos with obvious sadness, “I can't carry you.”

Atropos simply snorted and walked next to her.

Techno nodded to himself and enjoyed the ‘*aww’s*’ of chat. They turned and made their way to the training grounds. They passed many curious passersby, wanting to pet the pigs or Theseus but otherwise, they had no stops.

The group arrived at the training ground. Whoever was here used plenty of water jutsu as it was covered in water. He could see some of the trees were burnt and still on fire. Some traps were already noted, by the pond and by a small hole.

It would take a few hours just for this area especially if they can't use any ninjutsu.

“Do any of you know any earth jutsu?” He asked.

They looked at each other shaking their heads. Ino spoke up, “Asuma-sensei mostly used fire jutsu.”

“Do any of you know any fire jutsu?” He corrected.

They again looked at each other, before shaking their heads. Shikamaru talked this time, “We aren't that type of team.”

He turned to look at them, “What type are you?”

“We are a trapping and eliminating team,” He explained.

Techno sighed, “And personal skills?”

Shikamaru pointed to Ino, “She uses the Yamanaka mind transfer jutsu, I use my shadow techniques and Chouji uses the Akimichi jutsu.”

“*Personal skills* ?” He pressed, “Do any of you have your own skills and techniques or are focusing on one area of battle?”

They stared at him blankly.

He sighed, “Looks like manual labour.”

The kids *sucked* at manual labour.

He assigned them to areas that he thought they suited. Chouji with Clotho to fill in the holes. Shikamaru enters the trees to put out fires and douse burns or smolders with Lachesis. Ino with Atropos to brush water into the pond. He would disengage traps and help in areas they couldn't.

But these kids *suck* .

Chouji was not actually that strong even though he had the build for it. Shikamaru was fast but he was lazy and unfocused, meaning he missed or completely ignored points he should have watered. Ino was so busy trying to avoid getting water on her that she barely made any progress.

This might take the whole week if they keep at it like this.

He sighed, using his axe and swinging through a trap. It activated and a dozen shurikens came flying at him which he easily dodged. Theseus ran past him with wire attached to him. Techno leaned down and unwrapped it around him and put it into a bag.

“So what about training?” Ino yelled from the pond.

He paused, “What about it?”

“Are we going to have any training?” She asked.

He thought about it, “Gai-sensei only mentioned missions.” Then again Gai's missions *were* training.

“No training for a week sounds good to me,” Shikamaru groaned, stomping on some stray fires next to him. Lachesis was scratching at some burnt spots with her hooves.

“What has your teacher been teaching you?” He picked up a stray tree and moved it aside.

“Mostly teamwork-based stuff,” Shikamaru poured his water on the burns Lacheisis pointed out.

“Again no individual stuff,” He paused, “Have you learned water walking and tree walking?”

“We know tree walking,” Shikamaru said slowly, “Only Chouji can water walk and that's only barely.”

“He can water walk,” Techno repeated, “I have an idea.”

Shikamaru turned to look at him, his swirly pig following.

Techno walked out into the middle of the area where Ino was with Atropos and the pond. He turned to Theseus and asked him to go fetch Chouji and Clotho.

Shikamaru was closely following behind him, hands in his pockets. Lachesis sat down at his feet.

Chouji and Clotho came out of the trees dirty and covered in mud. He noted Chouji's bag of chips with entertainment. They all came to stand in front of him.

Dark eyes scanned all of them, “It comes to my attention that you don't know how to water walk yet.”

“Are we learning how to?” Ino asked.

He pressed his lips together, “Technically.” He pointed to the pond, “You are going to walk on the water and dodge as I fling projectiles at you.”

They stared at him in obvious horror.

“I will fling the stuff we are supposed to be cleaning,” He concluded feeling suddenly awkward.

There was silence before Chouji asked, “Can we catch it and throw it back?”

He thought about it, “Yes.” Then he pointed to the pond, “Get on.”

They took a few short steps onto the water. Chouji was at ease standing there, and Ino was wobbly and attempting confident steps. Shikamaru was simply glaring at the water trying his best to figure out how to walk in without sinking. He was stuck with nostalgia from when he met Gai sensei.

“The best way to stay afloat is to not push down with your chakra,” He tried explaining, “It's to pull it up.”

Shikamaru glanced at him with a grimace before stepping forward.

The pigs and Theseus were sitting off to the side. Watching all of the chaos that was soon to start.

Chat was having an absolute time, cheering for their death and water splashes.

They had all gathered to the centre two shaky and one more assured.

Time to change that.

He walked over to a small clump of earth. He picked it up with a grimace. He turned to the students.

With reckless abandon, he threw the earth as hard as possible at them.

Ino screamed and dove out of the way straight into the water. Shikamaru ducked and his feet went right through the barrier he'd made. Chouji sidestepped it without falling in.

Ino came out of the water, furious and soaked, “You could have killed us!”

Shikamaru came out using his chakra to stand back up on the pond, “I think that's the point.”

Techno smirked, “Don't get hit.”

He launched another mud ball.

They were still standing when the sunset. They were soaked through, not cold but not comfortable. They had relatively mastered water walking, they certainly could avoid danger on water and get back up, but they were not flawless. The area was mostly cleaned up now, at

least from clumps of rocks and water. There were still some flames and heat but that could be taken care of later.

He had sent away the three pigs. Theseus was sleeping in his arms at ease. Chat had gone crazy once or twice about Sakura but they had calmed themselves down before he could really hear what they were talking about.

He awkwardly said goodbye to all of his week-long students. Ino looked upset but mostly tired, Shikamaru had looked him up and down, nodded, and then left and Chouji smiled, bowed, and left.

He will be calling this a success.

Chapter End Notes

Pigs o fate.

the three sisters are so cool, fate and shit.

Kakashi Two

Chapter Notes

so uh Thanksgiving was long.
I cooked so much god.
ALso-i decided to have Kakashi's perspective!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

They were being followed.

Kakashi had clocked them almost instantly. They weren't exactly being subtle. A puddle on a hot day? With no rain in days?

He, however, wanted to see if his students noticed anything at all. So far their instincts have not been so perfect.

Sasuke didn't notice so much as he was already being exceedingly paranoid. Sakura saw the puddle and thought something was wrong with it but seemed to have brushed it off. But he could see a tenderness that wasn't there before.

Naruto....hadn't noticed anything amiss whatsoever.

They can't all be winners.

He could see out of the corner of his eye the assailants rising out of a puddle. Chains were flown towards him and surrounded him, trapping him.

He dramatically widened his eye, "W-What?!"

Then he was torn to shreds in front of a bunch of twelve-year-olds.

Trauma builds character, right?

They went for Naruto first as he was frozen in shock. Sasuke stepped in, quickly throwing shurikens and senbon into the chains that they attempted to trap Naruto in. He kicked them in the face and they fell back.

They launched for the bridge builder, and Sakura jumped in blocking their passage. Kicking one in the side and launching him away while Sasuke stood to her side ready to hit the other.

Kakashi appeared and punched the one still going for Tazuna in the gut causing the man to fold. He elbowed him in the head, knocking him out.

The other man noted his partner's defeat. But Kakashi wouldn't allow him to leave. He appeared behind him and hit him over the head.

He eye smiled at his gobsmacked students, "Yo."

Sakura looked furious and betrayed. Sasuke, though surprised, was good at hiding it and Naruto went from surprise to relief almost instantaneously.

He picked up the two enemies. He walked to a tree and began tying them before pausing and turning to Naruto, "Oh hey Naruto, sorry for not helping you. I just didn't think you would freeze up."

Naruto looked struck. Hopefully, that would break him out of his freezing.

He caught the fist that was heading for his face, "Sakura that wasn't nice."

"IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE!" She yelled at him, face red, "WE SAW YOU KILLED!"

"It was a simple substitution," He tried to ease her, he had hoped her reaction would be closer to gratefulness.

"We could have died!" She lowered her volume considerably, "Or Tazuna could have died!"

He chuckled, "I was nearby the whole time."

She still looked furious and her eyes were close to watering, "We thought you were dead!"

Oh .

"Well, I wasn't," He bluntly stated.

She let out a wet giggle as her anger depleted, "You really did teach Ren, you sound the same."

"Mah, he's always been like that. it was Gai who he was influenced by," The chunin let out groans and they all paused.

"Good job, Sasuke," He suddenly said, "You too Sakura. Fast thinking."

Naruto looked heartbroken at the lack of praise, and Sasuke didn't make it any better by walking by him and mocking him. At this rate Sasuke's going to make an enemy out of his teammates, "Naruto let me see your hand."

He blinked (*familiar*) blue eyes at him, "Wha-What?"

"The cut you received has poison in it," He explained.

"Poison?!" He and Sakura yelled.

"Yes, we will have to cut it out," He eyed Tazuna, "And you , *Mr. Tazuna* , we need to talk."

The drunk flinched back looking nervous, he had no doubt the man no longer thought Kakashi or his students were useless.

He pointed at the tied-up two, "These two are chunin from the village hidden in the mist; they are typically known for their relentless attacks." He recited almost mechanically.

One of the men who were waking up heard him, "How did you know we were following you?"

He sneered, " *A puddle?* On a bright sunny day with no rain for weeks?"

Tazuna looked at him shocked and angry, "Then why did you let the genin deal with them?"

His team also looked interested, "I needed to see something and they gave me the opportunity to do so."

"What did you need to know?" Sasuke cut in looking at him with a frustrated frown.

He faked an eye smile, "Who they were after." He wouldn't bring up that two out of three of his students were considered priceless property. They looked at him, "And...Naruto who did they try to kill?"

Naruto looked startled at being called on, "Uh, me at first. Then.... *Sasuke* stopped him and he went after...." A light bulb went off, "The drunk old man!"

Tazuna scowled while Kakashi chuckled condescendingly, "Yes, after *you* ." The old man flinched back a little, "Why is this mission a C rank?"

Tazuna looked shocked (*fake*) then indignant, "How should I know?! I thought you were supposed to protect me?!"

"Well if you booked for the correct type of mission—which is at least a B rank—then you would be correctly protected and they would be fully aware that *you* are being hunted." He felt a wave of strong anger, he never understood people who willingly let people into danger. "Because you are fully aware that these men are after you and I think you know why and you know what type of punishment you could get if you got any of us *killed* ."

Tazuna's old eyes seemed saddened and fearful, "I couldn't pay."

He raised an eyebrow, "So instead you got a team of genin at risk—and yourself—because you refused to wait? You didn't have to leave or book it as a C rank but you chose to anyway."

He could feel his student's fear at his intensity, he was normally the epitome of calm and nonchalant behaviour, but he could have gotten all of them killed if Kakashi wasn't as good as he was.

"Please," The bridge builder begged, "I couldn't pay and I had to leave. I need to get home to my family. I'm the bridge builder of our town and they need the bridge I'm building to receive money."

Kakashi's expression did not change, "And yet you could have gotten us all killed."

The man swallowed, "I know but—"

"Kakashi-sensei wait!" His students called.

He turned a lazy grey eye to them, "What?"

"We should help him!" Sakura announced.

" *Help him?*" He turned his frosty glare to the man in question.

"Yeah!" Naruto agreed, "His family could be starving and they need him!"

His glare only got worse, "They need him, huh?"

"It wouldn't be shinobi like to turn down a mission," Sasuke nodded with an eager expression.

"Would it?" He murmured to the nervous Tazuna.

Tazuna nodded quickly, "Please! I need to get back to my family!"

He simply stared at him, listening to his students begged him to take the mission and disobey the Hokage's order to keep Naruto and Sasuke safe. Ignore any of Ren's threats and hope he doesn't know he put his precious sister at risk.

What would Minato do?

He suddenly pulled back from Tazuna and slouched.

He eye smiled at him, "Sure. We will help you."

The man retained his fear, "Tha-Thank you." His students all cheered.

He had a grin showing all teeth behind his mask, "Naruto give me your hand."

Let's hope he doesn't get anyone else killed.

Chapter End Notes

hope everyone had a good thanksgiving!

Sakura Five

Chapter Notes

I LIVED!

The holidays almost killed me but I lived!
and as a gift here is a long chapter!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

They had been travelling for over a day now. They reached the first mass of water, someone had been waiting there happy to take their fare. Sakura had noticed it quickly, “The fog is so thick here.”

No one spoke.

The boat rocked back and forward to the waves. Naruto sat at the front watching ahead and using his strong senses to watch out for anything. Kakashi was in the back next to Tazuna and she sat across from Sasuke. She could see that everyone was unnerved, even Naruto. He kept grabbing his once-injured hand, rubbing where there should be a scare but isn't.

The man who was driving the boat said, “The bridge isn't far now. Once we reach it we will be in the land of waves.”

They all leaned forward to see if they could see the bridge. The one Tazuna said he helped construct and bridge.

Naruto let out a gasp, “Wow, it's huge.”

It was. She and Sasuke let out their own gasps. The boat swerved under the massive incomplete structure. It was bigger than any paths in Konoha, built to take hits *or terrifying waves*. She could see no one was working on it. Must be the crazy fog.

The boatman shushed them, “Quiet! I told you not to make any noise! The fog is keeping us covered, we don't want to be discovered. We don't want *them* to see us.”

Naruto covered his mouth looking shocked, she narrowed her eyes at Tazuna while Sasuke continued to stare at the continuous bridge.

“Mr. Tazuna,” Kakashi spoke quietly, “Before we reach the pier I have to ask...why are you being hunted? We want to make this mission as easy as possible.” His voice tethered on threatening.

Tazuna looked grave and hid behind his headwear, “I am being targeted by a short powerful man who casts a deadly shadow over my country.”

“Who?” Kakashi sounded coy.

“You have probably heard his name before,” Tazuna expressed gravely, “Gato, one of the wealthiest shipping companies nearby.”

“I know him,” Sakura suddenly shouted.

They shushed her.

She blushed slightly, “Ren said he has a monopoly on the inner wave area and is not allowing anyone to sell anything without being highly taxed—so we don't sell here any more.”

“Your Ren would be right,” The old man nodded, “Your Sensei also knows him.”

They turned to him, Kakashi sensei had a knowing look on the part of the face they could see, “Gato of Gato company, one of the richest men in the world?”

“Yes,” Tazuna looked troubled, “He is a successful tycoon powerhouse on the surface but underneath...he is a drug trafficker who deals with ninjas and other assailants. He sells to the poor and buys out any other business that may go against you. He uses his strength to intimidate and bully the civilians here.”

He took a sip of his drink, “He came here a year ago, using his wealth and power to take over. Before we knew it he had fully taken control of shipping and any transportation. On an island like this, travel over water is needed to survive and to have such a man taxing and controlling everything...ninja, the government and the people, we have been suffering greatly.”

“But,” he continued, “This bridge will change everything. It will give the people a direct connection to the mainland and the rest of the countries. We will not have to use Gato and his shipping company anymore, but that is what he fears. I am the builder of this bridge, and for this, he wants me dead.”

Sakura sat with the new information and all of her knowledge on trade and culture and hostile takeovers. She wished Ren was here or even her parents, they were avid tradesmen and they visited their neighbouring countries all the time. She had been too busy with the ninja to learn of their family business but from things she understood...

“Why hasn't the ninja done anything?” She asked quietly.

They turned to her. It was Kakashi who spoke, “Wave country is going through a power struggle, there are no ninjas to keep the public safe.”

“So he wants you dead because you're in his way,” Sakura summarised.

“And the ninja he sent after you are his men that he pays,” Sasuke agreed.

“But you said Wave had no ninja...” Naruto questioned their Sensei.

Kakashi-sensei looked rather impressed, “Yes, Wave have no ninja *anymore*. They trained and had their own culture before...but now they have none, meaning all actual ninjas of wave

are older and more experienced, even deadly.”

They *ahhed*.

Kakashi turned to the drunk, “But why hide it? You could have gotten the support you needed but you hid it, why?”

“Because the Land of Waves, “ He looked down, “Is very poor and even our federal lords hold no money. Any money we do have has to be used among ourselves.”

Sakura felt almost guilty, the missions in Konoha were not that expensive and for a country to be so poor they couldn't pay for a B rank? She wondered what they might see.

Tazuna continued, “We cannot afford anything but a C rank.” He looked at them determinedly, “And if you end the mission when we land ashore there is no doubt what will happen to me, I will be killed.”

They stared at him aghast, and he smirked, “But there's no need to be concerned, I'm sure I will be fine and the situation will work itself out. I'm sure my grandson will be fine and my daughter will make do with what she has.”

Sakura huffed and turned to her teammates as if to say, *can you believe this guy?* Naruto looked almost nauseous at his words, but Sasuke eyed her. An agreement was shared but he looked less annoyed and more interested.

“Well,” Kakashi-sensei looked at them, “Guess we have no choice but to continue guarding you.”

They continued the journey through the water. Eventually, they came to an underpass. Boatman told them they were almost there. The cave put them into darkness and coming out on the other end was almost blinding.

The place was beautiful trees twisted into the water and houses built on stilts. The air held much less fog than before. It had a cool breeze that smelled of water and sweetness.

They came to the dock walkway and were let off. She noted that the ground felt like it was moving with the water, rocking back and forward just like being on the boat.

Boatman nodded to them, “Good luck, Tazuna.”

“Thank you,” Tazuna bowed his head.

He left in his small boat.

“Alright then,” He turned to them, “Take me home.”

The whole way here she and Sasuke have had a system.

They would trade off keeping Naruto away from Tazuna, and Sasuke would bait him into randomly talking about stuff or challenging him to random tasks. She will talk to him and ask him about things. It was a good system.

Their system was ruined in an instant. It was Sasuke's turn to distract him, they were messing around with throwing knives. Hitting random objects they deem as targets. She had been threatening Tazuna again and Sensei was walking with his hands in his pockets without a care in the world.

Suddenly, Naruto threw a knife into the bushes proclaiming he nailed a tree.

Sasuke scoffed, "You can't see through walls. You just hit a—"

A small cry broke out.

They all jumped weapons in hand staring at the bush. Sasuke took the first step forward and they followed his lead. He moved the bush away with his pale fingers.

They all jumped, "Well would you look at that? Naruto, you did hit something," Kakashi spoke over their shoulders.

Naruto let out a small whimper, " *Noooo*, I didn't mean to small bunny!"

A small white bunny was dead, he had accidentally nailed it. Naruto walked over and picked it up. She narrowed her green eyes. She's never seen one with that colouring and she'd never read that they existed in this area.

She tried to comfort Naruto, "Its okay, you didn't mean to—"

"Everybody down!" Kakashi-sensei yelled.

She, on instinct, dove to the ground. They all followed and were just missed by a *massive* sword flying past them. A loud '*thud*' rang as it impaled itself onto a tree.

A figure fell out of the tree and stood on the handle.

He had dark skin and the *wildest-looking* pants and sleeves combo she's ever seen. They were cow print and he had *no shirt* on and a face mask on. He stood ominously over them. *Ren would have winced looking at him.*

Kakashi-sensei was still nonchalant in his approach, "Well, well, if it isn't Zabuza Momochi of the Hidden Mist." Their Sensei looked perfectly relaxed with the rogue-looking ninja.

Naruto tensed and tried to attack only for Kakashi-sensei to stop with his hand. His voice while light, still had an edge to it, "You're in the way. Stay back."

"What?! Why?!" Naruto asked.

"Because he is not like those other ninjas," His voice was getting deadlier, "He's in another league compared to them."

They stared at him fearfully, his tone sent shivers up their spine. She racked her brain for what he was talking about. This guy is a *jounin* ? The best of the best? His sword also seemed familiar.

“And if this gets ugly,” his hand came to the headband that covered his left eye, “I’m going to need this.”

“Kakashi of the Sharingan eye...” His voice was deep and grave with growls in his endings, “Did I get that right?”

Sasuke let out a quiet gasp. She peeked at him, he was clearly shocked at the title. His eyes glued to Kakashi like he might vanish.

Zabuza then spoke again, “I’m afraid you will have to hand over the old man.” His brown eyes looked over them. She shivered when they went over her.

The air was tense with anticipation before Kakashi barked at them, “Manji formation. Protect the bridge builder. And stay out of this fight.” His voice seemed directed at Naruto, “I have been teaching you teamwork, now you will use it.”

His hand fiddled with his hitai-ate. Zabuza gazed at their Sensei with interest, eagerly waiting for the reveal. She pulled Naruto into the formation while Sasuke shuffled next to her.

Kakashi sensei pulled his headband up revealing his eye. It had a deep old slash going vertically through it and into his pale white brow. His eye opened.

It was a bloody red with what she thought were multiple-looking pupils swirling around the centre.

His eerie eyes were locked on the excited-looking Zabuza, “Fight me.”

She held her breath, and Zabuza hummed in satisfaction, “Looks like I will be facing the Sharingan in battle. This will be an honour.”

Sensei’s face didn’t change nor did he speak.

Naruto leaned over to her, “What’s the Sharingan?”

“A doujutsu,” Sasuke suddenly said, and they turned to him, “A rare kekkei genkai that affects the eyes giving the holder the ability to copy and recreate moves they can see.”

It clicked in her mind, *Copy-cat Kakashi! That’s why he has that name!*

“It is an extremely rare form of visual jutsu and can have many other abilities,” He sounded like he was quoting something.

Suddenly a fog rolled in covering the field and hiding its opponents.

Zabuza’s voice was low with what seemed like amusement, “When I was in the ANBU Black Ops in the Hidden Mist we had a standing order for you, *Kakashi* , to kill you on sight. You

had the honour of being in our Bingo Book. It called you ‘ *the man who’s copied a thousand jutsu*, ’ Kakashi the Copy Ninja.”

Kakashi-sensei had not moved an inch, still gazing up at the mist ninja. Their eyes held.

She could hear Naruto ‘wow’ over their Sensei’s apparently well-known reputation but Sasuke looked lost in thought seemingly conflicted.

Zabuza crouched, gaze sliding to Tazuna, “No more talking. I need to kill the old man.”

They all tensed and held out their knives and other weapons.

“But, Kakashi,” His deep-set eyes moved to him, “It seems I will have to defeat you first.” He tore the sword out of the tree and vanished into the fog.

They looked around for him, and Naruto yelled out, “He's over there!”

“Standing on the water?!” She added.

He was posed into a jutsu. Ripples of power pulled in the water when suddenly he spoke, “Ninja art: Hidden Mist Jutsu.”

The fog thickened to the point she could barely make out Kakashi-sensei and she couldn't see Zabuza at all.

“Sensei...” She called.

“I'm still here,” He said, “But don't lower your guard, though I don't doubt I could beat him. I doubt he would let any of us get out of this freely.”

They clenched their weapons tighter.

His tone shifted slightly, “Don't worry, if we lose we only die.”

I can hear Ren saying that , she grumbled to herself.

No one laughed.

“The fog is getting thicker, “ Naruto observed.

Their Sensei completely vanished. She tucked herself in closer to her teammates, she could feel them do the same. Nervous that they won't be able to see what comes. They stayed silent, hoping the mist covered them completely.

“Eight spots...” Zabuza’s voice hissed out from nowhere. They were so close together she could feel Sasuke’s trembling and Naruto’s unsteady breathing. “The larynx, the spine, the lungs, the liver, the jugular and the subclavian veins,” He listed ominously, “The kidneys... *heart* . Now then, which one should I go for?”

Her sweaty palms were slick against the handle of her knife and her breathing was getting heavier. The air was heavy and thick, suffocating her lungs and she trembled where she stood.

She could barely breathe like this.

Suddenly, Kakashi-sensei appeared casting a jutsu which pushed some of the mist away. A simple technique with chakra.

But even the sight of her Sensei did not ease the bloodthirst in the air.

“Sasuke!” Kakashi’s voice cut through the fear in her mind, “Calm down! I will protect you with my life. *All of you.*”

She glanced at Sasuke and was shocked to see the normally composed boy shaking and holding his own kunai knife to his chest.

“I will not allow my comrades to die,” Kakashi stated with finality, he turned to them and smiled, “Trust me.”

She and her teammates felt warm at his admission. She thought back to when they first began this mission and he almost admitted he was scared she would die. Strange how fast people change when faced with life or death.

But Zabuza had to cut in, voice *right behind her* , “I wouldn't be so sure.”

She felt the air shift and the hair raise up on her arm, his chakra flowed around them. She turned her head.

He stood behind them, sword raised.

Kakashi flew at them quicker than the human eye could see and blocked a move only he could have predicted.

They all flew away from the two ninjas, standing off to the side staring shocked at how fast this happened.

They were at a standstill.

A drizzle sound rang out. Water was coming from Zabuza’s body, out of the wound Kakashi-sensei had made.

A clone .

Zabuza appeared behind Kakashi.

“Sensei, look out!” Naruto yelled.

The clone vanished and the real Zabuza swung his sword through Kakashi.

She closed her eyes for a moment, unwilling to see him hurt. But she opened her eyes when the sound of running water was heard instead.

Another clone.

Kakashi was behind Zabuza holding a knife to his neck, “Don't move.”

She stood shocked, she spied her teammates around the area. Sasuke was still trying to get ahold of himself while staring with obvious shock. Naruto was crouched, looking ecstatic and seemingly hyping himself up for their Sensei's win.

She noted Tazuna passively, focused on the standstill.

Zabuza started to chuckle, a deep gravelly thing, “You are good. To have copied my water clone so fast and to duplicate it...”

Suddenly, another Zabuza appeared behind Kakashi-sensei, “I am, however, no fool.” He swung his massive two-handed sword at Sensei's head who ducked. The sword impaled itself into the ground causing Zabuza to launch himself up and kick Kakashi-sensei.

Her jaw dropped watching her Sensei fly through the air into the water. Zabuza dove in after him.

“Sensei! Get out of the water!” She screamed. To fight a wave country jounin in his prime environment, no matter how capable and powerful her teacher was he would have the disadvantage. Especially with how Zabuza was acting. He had a plan, she could tell, perhaps to lead him away to kill Tazuna. Her eyes found the client.

Her Sensei was slow moving, body seemingly weighing more than normal as he pulled his soaked form up. His shiny silver hair was falling over both eyes and his mask stuck to his face. He looked down at his hands, eyes narrowed before widening into shock.

Zabuza appeared behind him, “Water Prison Jutsu!”

A bubble of water surrounded their teacher. He floated in the middle, eyes wide and angry.

“A prison made of water but stronger than steel,” Zabuza chuckled. His hand was partially in the bubble as he held it. “Now Kakashi...I will deal with you later.” He held up another hand. A clone of him came from the water.

They all fell back, shocked and terrified. She could hear Naruto gasping and Sasuke's quick scuffles. She looked at Tazuna, he was hanging back, jaw dropped.

Zabuza looked his dark eyes at them, “You think those headbands make you a ninja? Hovering between life and death so many times it no longer fazes you, that might be when you can call yourself ninja,” His clone shifted slightly, “Or maybe when you enter my Bingo Book.”

Fog rolled in again, “But punks like you can't be real ninjas.”

A loud slap and Naruto went flying. Headband falling away, Zabuza stood where Naruto once did. She felt frozen in fear, “Because you are just children.”

“Naruto?” She called into the mist.

“Sakura! Sasuke! Get Naruto and Tazuna and run!” Her Sensei called out from his stasis chamber. He was unable to move, his body frozen in a bubble made to catch and hold hostages. “You cannot win this fight!”

“But Sensei?!” She heard Naruto yell.

“He is using all of his chakra to keep me here. He can only fight you with his clone and I doubt that clone can go far from his actual body!” He stressed his words further, “If you run, he can't follow!”

She felt tempted to follow his orders. She doubted Sensei would get killed but to run away...? She looked at her teammates. Sasuke gave her an intense stare and nodded. Naruto who was pulling her up gave her a grin.

They would stay and fight.

Sasuke launched himself forward throwing shurikens, she grimaced, he was moving far too slow. They were blocked easily by the clone. Sasuke jumped upwards going for his head but he was caught by the throat. He was thrown aside.

“Sasuke!” She and Naruto yelled.

She ran for him but screamed back at Tazuna to get back. Naruto pulled himself up and followed her over to their teammate.

The Zabuza clone appeared in front of them. She yelled out, grabbing the slightly injured Sasuke and pulling him sharply away. Naruto threw out his hand holding a knife, it slightly caught the massive sword and Naruto was sent flying. But it gave her enough time to haul Sasuke out of Zabuza's immediate range.

She turned to find Naruto who was running towards Zabuza with a yell. She could hear her Sensei calling for him to stop.

“NARUTO!” She belted as hard as she could, “COME HERE!”

He slid to a stop looking over at her confused, before putting his hands together. She watched a log appear in his spot and a small smoke cloud poofed next to her.

“Hey, Sakura! What's up?” He asked urgently.

“We need a plan,” She looked down at Sasuke who was sitting up rubbing his jaw, “None of us is strong enough or fast enough to take him in a fight.”

“But Sakura! Then what—”

“We need to get Kakashi out,” Sasuke stated.

She nodded, looking at her bruised teammate, “We can't defeat him but Sensei can. We need to get Zabuza away from the prison bubble.”

Naruto blinked at the two of them before looking at their Sensei, “What should we do about the clone?”

They were next to some trees, Tazuna from what she could see were hiding on the other side of the path.

Suddenly, Naruto turned to them with bright blue eyes, “I have a plan.”

“Why don't you kids come out of hiding and face me like real ninjas!” Zabuza yelled.

She heard Kakashi chuckling, “Have they ruined your plans?”

She pulled her bag off, and going through it she pulled out her extra weapons and rope. She saw Naruto pulling his bag off too, pulling out what looked like...smoke bombs?

“Sakura, can you walk on water?” Naruto's question pulled her out.

“What?”

Sasuke was looking at her scrutinising, “Can you walk on water like Kakashi?”

She blushed slightly, “I can stand—It's hard to walk.”

“Good!” Naruto nodded, “That's all we need!”

He leaned in close and spoke of his plan. Pulling out other items and whispering a little too loudly. She shushed him a few times while Sasuke nodded, eyes focused on their sensei. Zabuza was getting antsy, he could obviously sense that they were nearby but he couldn't let Sensei out so they were in a stalemate until they made their move.

Her breath caught and Naruto noticed, “We got this Sakura! We can't back down from a fight!”

Her thoughts went to Ren. Sasuke huffed, but a smile was on his face, “Unless you're scared.”

They both scowled at him, “No way!”

Her pink hair flew with her nod, “Let's do this!”

“Alright!” Naruto exclaimed before putting his hands together, “Shadow Clone Jutsu!” A dozen other Naruto's appeared, she admired them briefly before getting in position.

“You ready, Sakura?” Sasuke stood next to her.

Her face was set, “Always.”

“Let’s save Kakashi-sensei!” The Naruto’s cheered

Sakura pulled out the smoke bomb and launched it as hard as possible. The Naruto group ran into the open and towards the clone. They all got into position, using the smoke bomb to hide their number. She fought with Ren too many times to think he didn’t know where they were. But they could hide how many.

“Finally! Got tired of hiding?”

“Naruto! What are you doing?!” Their Sensei was loud and panicked from his water prison.

The Naruto’s pulled out their kunai knives, “HEY! Zabuza! Make sure to put this in your Bingo Book—I’m going to be the Leaf’s Village Hokage one day!” They ran at the other clone.

The actual Naruto pulled out his one unique weapon. A massive shuriken, he threw it as hard as possible, through the smoke and past the clones attacking the Zabuza clone. It flew towards the actual Zabuza and their Sensei.

The water clone laughed, “You missed.”

“Did I?” Naruto bragged before attacking him with more clones.

She nodded to Sasuke. He smirked before vanishing into a puff.

The shuriken flew to Zabuza, who narrowed his eyes. He caught the shuriken easily. But another in his blindspot appeared. She smiled, *well done Naruto*.

He looked shocked before simply jumping over. Not needing to pull his arm away from Kakashi, she could see him watching the weapons with narrowed eyes.

Never back down from a fight.

She vanished.

She reappeared as the bottom shuriken. Sasuke appeared in his other hand, taking the spot of the previous object.

She launched her knives at him. Sasuke stabbed him with his.

He snarled and threw Sasuke at her. She prepared herself and grounded her feet with chakra.

Her knives flew towards him and he found himself slow. The knives Sasuke had stabbed him with were in his shoulder, halting much rotation.

Sasuke collided with her, he was barely taller than her and she wrapped her arms around him keeping him above the water.

Zabuza pulled his arm out of the water prison and caught the knives. He moved faster than she could see, especially with water splashing everywhere. But Kakashi-sensei could. And he

used it.

Zabuza attempted to reforge the prison but found Kakashi falling through the water into the lake.

He turned to them with furious brown eyes, “You!”

Her own green eyes widened. Sasuke yelled, “Sakura—!”

She did the only thing she could think of.

She let them sink into the water.

The water was warm and rushing. She couldn't see anything and Sasuke was dragging her down. He grabbed her around the waist and attempted to pull her up. But they were sinking fast.

Air escaped their lungs and she let out a cough. Sasuke's black eyes widened.

Bubbles flew up everywhere blinding her from seeing Sasuke who was ripped away from her. She flailed attempting to swim upwards. But the chakra prison that held her Sensei had caused a whirl in the water and she was barely able to move.

A large hand grabbed her around her chest and yanked her.

She let out a scream.

Her body was shot upwards with the body that held her. Bubbles felt strange running down her face and she closed her eyes as they neared the surface.

Loud light burst across her eyelids and she let out a loud cough and greedily sucked in air.

She opened her eyes as she was set softly on the wet ground.

The mist had blown away with Zabuza breaking concentration.

A loud ‘whoosh’ and they vanished and reappeared almost instantly. Another body was sitting next to her, and she turned.

Sasuke lay next to her. Breathing raggedly and soaked to the bone he looked at her. They stared at one another before nodding. They looked up.

Kakashi-sensei stood over them. He too was soaked, his vest looked heavy and dripped. His hair fell down over his face and ears. He was pale with pink spots. His hand was next to her head, it was twitching and she could see blood under his nails.

Another body was suddenly put down next to her. Naruto looked at her with obvious relief. He leaned over and hugged her. His warm form was getting wet, and she clutched him a little closer. He whispered not very quietly, “Are you okay?”

She nodded, still breathing heavily, “Yeah.” He pulled away.

"Okay," He scooted over and hugged the shocked Sasuke.

She smiled at them, before turning back to Sensei. He was still, unmoving as water dripped off him. He was quiet, she couldn't even hear his breathing.

"Sensei?" She asked.

He was quiet, "You all okay?" His voice was dark and worried.

Naruto answered for them, "Yeah! We're okay. You got the clone before he hurt me."

"Good," He stated, "Stay out of this." He was deadly serious now.

They nodded quickly.

“Yes, Sensei,” They all said meekly.

“Mhm, good,” He nodded, “Good plan Naruto.”

Naruto brightened, “Thanks Sensei! I tried to get—”

A deep laughter rang out over the water. Zabuza’s voice was bordering on mocking, ““Good plan?” I simply got distracted and lost my grip on the water prison.”

Kakashi's head cocked, “Distracted?” He laughed condescendingly, “Don't flatter yourself. You were *forced* to let go, and don't think you will get me again. I doubt you would even be able to cast it after using so much chakra. So, what will happen now?”

There was a long tense pause.

“Sakura, Sasuke, Naruto,” Kakashi barely moved his jaw, “Go and protect Tazuna. *Now* .”

They stared at him wide-eyed before stumbling up and running for their employer.

“No, you don't!”

Zabuza launched himself at them. Wild-eyed and snarling. His sword was raised over his head ready to slice them down the middle. Sasuke jumped in front of her and Naruto jumped in front of him.

But Zabuza never got there. As he swung the sword down it was caught with one hand by Kakashi sensei.

Kakashi-sensei was furious, his eyes looked almost black and the Sharigan was spinning in his socket. He turned to them, face intense, “ *Go* .”

They ran to Tazuna and got into a position to defend him. Her heartbeat was out of her chest watching the still jounin.

Zabuza growled and pushed down on his sword. She could see Kakashi wincing as the deadly blade cut into his palm before throwing his arm out and launching the sword away.

They flew away from each other instantly. Settling on the water a ways away.

“The Sharingan!” Sasuke exclaimed next to her.

The Sharingans' pupil came to a prick and spun. It made her almost dizzy watching it.

Zabuza went into his hand signs slowly, they were long and not stopping. Kakashi went through the same one as if he was reading his mind.

She blinked and they were still going through hand signs. She wondered what Kakashi-sensei was doing, he could do some signs in the blink of an eye, but he was taking his time mimicking Zabuza's every move.

Finally, they both exclaimed, “Water Style: Water Dragon Jutsu!”

The ground shook and the water rippled.

Two heads of water shot out of the lake. Her eyes widened. They were long serpentine beasts who were as tall as the mountains back home. They roared at each other and she covered her ears. They towered over the opponents.

They dove in sync, spinning and twirling around each other like ribbons. It was beautiful and deadly. Then sensei dove into Zabuza's and the water *exploded*.

It rained, covering them and their employer. She could feel the power in the water hitting them. The strong chakra manipulated the water. A tidal wave came from the lake almost hitting them. But the dragons continued.

They bit and rammed into each other, water exploding whenever they made contact. She's never seen anything like this. A perfectly done Ninjutsu to fight with.

As the water continued to fall, she could see her sensei. He was locked in a struggle with his knives against Zabuza and his sword. The water dragon was gone, just water falling now.

They jumped away from each other again.

Then they...began to run in circles?

They were perfectly mirrored, doing the others every movement. It was so smooth she didn't even know who was copying who (*She guessed it was the Copy-Cat Ninja though*).

Zabuza began looking unnerved while Kakashi's never changed. An intense glare in his eyes never left.

They stood apart slowly copying when Kakashi's voice called, “...going to do next?”

Whatever the context, Zabuza's eyes widened and he looked shocked.

“It makes you *furious* doesn't it?” Kakashi’s voice was serious.

Suddenly, Zabuza exclaimed, “Hah! You're just a copy! A pale imitation!”

“You can't beat me with cheap tricks!”

“You can't beat me with cheap tricks!”

They spoke at the same time. Zabuza scowled, “When I am done with you, you won’t open your mouth again!” He began going through hand signs again before pausing.

“Water Style: Giant Vortex Jutsu!” Kakashi-sensei yelled.

Zabuza stumbled back.

A loud ‘*swoosh*’ and the water shot into a circle. Spinning rapidly cracking the air as it swirled. The entire lake seems to *move*. Shooting through the water circle and dragging the lake out from itself and into the air and at Zabuza.

She couldn't see anything as the water basically raised itself from its home. She grabbed onto Naruto and Sasuke’s arms holding them together as she waited for the wave of water to come.

The water was shooting at where Zabuza once stood. Pushing into the woods and flooding them. It was strong enough to topple trees and break them in half.

The air sharply hit them, pushing them back. They held against the water raining down on them. She could barely hear over the noise. She could make out Tazuna yelling about his hat.

As the water washed away she saw the scene. Zabuza was pinned to a tree, knives stuck into his joints and bleeding. Kakashi stood over him in a tree, “You're finished.”

“H-How?” He gritted out, “Can you see the future?”

“Sure,” Kakashi replied, “And this is your last battle.” He pulled out more knives.

Twin senbon flew from another tree. They had perfect aim, as they stuck themselves right into Zabuza’s neck. Blood shot out and he fell.

Her jaw dropped and she felt sick. She could hear the gasps of her teammates, shocked at the scene before them.

Her Sensei’s head snapped to a tree.

A short figure stood there. Wrapped in thick clothes and a mask on the face. Their long black hair fell in twin bangs. They spoke softly, “You're right. It was his last battle.” Their clothes blew in the wind exposing pale legs.

Zabuza was face down on the ground with open eyes.

Sensei appeared next to him, feeling for a pulse. He said, “No vital signs.”

The figure bowed its head, “I thank you. I have been waiting to kill him for a long time now.”

“A Tracker Ninja from Mist,” Kakashi stated.

“Impressive, you are very knowledgeable,” They said. She thought those words from anyone else might be condescending but they sounded sincere.

“A Tracker Ninja?” Naruto asked, eyes taking in the scene as quickly as possible.

“A ninja who will track down other rogue ninjas from their village and eliminate them so any village secret won't get out,” She explained quickly.

Naruto didn't reply.

“That is correct,” They startled her, “I am here to collect Zabuza.”

Suddenly Naruto turned to her, “How could they?!”

“How could I?” They turned to the Tracker Ninja, “Do what?”

“Calm down Naruto,” Kakashi-sensei stood, “They are not our enemy.”

“That’s not what I'm saying!” Naruto yelled, “How could they just kill him?! I mean... Zabuza was so strong and monstrous and they just... They are no bigger than me! And they killed him with just *one move* ! Without even moving! What does that make us?”

He gestured to them, “We were just running around hoping our plan would work! And they get him just like that?! How are we so useless?!”

Kakashi-sensei slowly walked over to Naruto throughout his rant. He patted him on his head ruffling blonde hair, “I understand, but in this world, there are some kids who are younger than you, and who are stronger than me.”

She could see Sasuke grimace at his words. She herself was hurt slightly. She thought they were capable, a good team who used skills to great success. Perhaps she has already settled on the fact that she isn't extraordinary; Ren is extraordinary. He was a prodigy and she was happy to benefit from what he was.

Maybe others wouldn't be so settled.

The Tracker Ninja vanished in the wind and reappeared by Zabuza’s body.

“Your battle is over now. I must deal with the remains,” They said. “There are many secrets in this body that must be dealt with. Now, please excuse me.” They left with his body in a whirl of wind.

Sensei let out a long sigh and pulled his headband over the Sharingan. Sasuke watched the whole time with obvious interest. Naruto ran over to where the body was.

“They're gone, Naruto,” Sensei said with an air of finality.

“What was all this for?!” He screamed, “Fighting Zabuza just to have that tracker come in and take him!?”

Sensei walked over and grabbed his shoulder, “Save your anger. Use it next time you fight.”

“It's not fair,” Naruto sighed, anger receding, “We did all that work...”

“It *is* not fair,” He agreed, “But we cannot be selfish in fights. Especially when it's life or death.”

Naruto said nothing.

Kakashi sighed, “The mission is not over. We have to take Mr. Tazuna home.”

“But Sensei...” Sakura started, “We're exhausted.”

Tazuna laughed behind them, “Sorry I caused so much trouble! But you can rest at my home when it's over!”

She glared at him, “You better be.”

He gulped.

“Alright then,” Kakashi announced, “Let's get going.”

He then turned around, took one step and fell face-first into the ground.

She blinked at his sleeping figure as Naruto yelled and Sasuke took his vitals.

Never back down from a fight.

Chapter End Notes

Flashbacks might be my mortal enemy.

Technoblade Six

Chapter Notes

lot of you talked about this moment
SO uhh...here you go!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Technoblades' new team met up the next day at the same spot. They were set off doing the same things and he summoned the pigs to watch over them.

He didn't tell them they were going to be chased by said pigs around the training ground. They took one step on the grounds, asked if they were going to summon the pigs, and regretted it immediately. Ino was easily the fastest but she had horrible endurance. Shikamaru had the best hiding skills but he gave up too quickly. Chouji was great at escaping and creativity to get away but lacked speed.

He understood Konoha put teamwork first but he didn't. And the kids had the skills to be terrifying by themselves and he was absolutely going to teach them how to.

He decided he was going to step in on one of them and talk to them. Ask them about how they think they are doing and work with them on their weakest points.

Shika's smart talk to him!

Kids a genius he's just hiding it!

ino's creative and willing to do dirty work she's too prissy tho

Chouji has issues hurting people

Have they met the assassin yet?

Will they get hurt?

Go Team Seven!

They have also been loud.

Chat has had a lot of opinions these days. Talking constantly about his new orph— *kids* . They have also been talking about Sakura and her team, gossiping like old ladies. Apparently,

they got news from Kakashi-sensei. He asked for an extension on the trip because it might take more than three days. He asked for a week.

Sus , As one blonde used to say, *Very Sus*.

He decided to cut in on Ino first. She has been getting better at being unpredictable and has even suppressed her chakra a few times. Smart, realising the pigs could sense her.

He silently signalled the pigs to go after the other two. He waited a moment as she dove into a tree. He hopped down silently.

He crept over to the tree and awkwardly knocked on it, “Hallo .”

A loud thump happened and Chat laughed. Slowly a head peeked out, her blond hair was everywhere and she looked heavily paranoid. She glanced around, “Are they here?”

“Ah,” He said intelligently, “No.”

“Oh,” She replied, “Okay—hold on.”

He simply backed up and waited.

A few seconds later she came out of the tree. Her hair was fixed and redone and she looked substantially less alert, “What do you want?”

He blinked at her, “Um, I'm here to talk...to you.”

He grimaced to himself, *dying and coming back and he still can't talk to people*.

She narrowed her pupilless eyes, “Is it about you being a cruel teacher who tries to kill us while we work?”

“Yes.” He stuttered, “I—” He breathed in, “I'm here to speak with you about your lack of skills and how you can do better.”

She blinked at him. “*Lack of abilities?*” Her voice was shrill.

“Yes.” He ignored Chat laughing at him.

“I do not have a lack of abilities!” She shouted, “I just can't use any of my jutsu because you are making us run from *the cute pigs*! It's not my fault you never tried to see my skills! I know what I'm doing and—”

A fist flew towards her face.

She yelped and closed her eyes.

Nothing hit her face.

She opened her eyes.

Techno's fist was a hair away from her nose. Perfectly stopped.

She looked at him shocked, "What the *hell* ?!"

"You can't block a basic punch," He stated dryly, "You didn't even try to evade it."

She didn't know what to say to that, her mouth opening and closing.

"I'm trying to teach you simple skills that anyone should have," He explained, "You have your mind but you also need your body."

"Then what do I need?!" She yelled at him, "You just told me I'm basically useless, what should I do?"

"Not useless," He absentmindedly said, "You have skills—speed, ingenuity, and good instincts."

She smiled almost smugly to herself, "I do, don't I?"

"You just need to refine yourself."

She looked determined, "Alright! How?"

He thought for a second, "You need to run for longer. You're fast but you can't hold it for long and use that brain more often and..."

She watched him, "' And ?'"

"Find a skill that isn't your family," He bluntly said, "You don't look built for strength but you have enough chakra to work in something else. Find something you can defend yourself with, something you don't need strength for, and something that will work with your speed."

She looked lost, "I don't know what else..."

"Anything." He told her, "Think about it and you can tell me by the end of the day."

Leaning forward slightly, she smiled at him, "Does this mean I don't have to be chased anymore?"

He stared at her with black eyes. "No."

Then he ran into the trees and told the pigs they were good to get her again.

Next up, Chouji.

Chouji had been running mostly. Actually putting in the work and trying to get faster. He simply jumped in front of him and caught him when he stumbled into him.

He spun the boy around and sat him on the ground.

Chouji blinked up at him, "Sup, Sensei?"

“Halo ,” He said, “I'm here to speak to you about your skills.”

“Oh,” He stood up and dusted himself up, “What’s your summary, Sensei?”

He blinked, “You need to get faster or stronger.”

Chouji hummed, “I can get stronger—I just need to talk with my dad.”

“Okay,” He continued, “You also...need to get more creative or smarter with your skills.”

Chouji grimaced, “I don't know how to fix that.”

He latched on to something Chat said, “Shikamaru.”

“Shikamaru?” Chouji asked, raising his eyebrows, “What can he do?”

“He plays strategy games, right?” He asked.

“Yeah! He loves Go.” He laughed.

“Play with him,” He waved his ring-filled hands, “Have him explain all of his strategies out loud to you.”

Chouji nodded, “Got it, Sensei! Will...you ask him?”

Techno nodded stiffly, “Yes.”

“Okay, thanks,” Chouji looked relieved, “Anything else?”

He thought to Ino, “You need a personal skill.”

““Personal skill?”” Chouji wrung his hands together, “I use the Akimichi Jutsu—”

“You do.” Techno’s braided hair barely moved as he nodded, “But you are also just Chouji and you need your own skill to defend or help yourself.”

Chouji looked confused, “Like what, Sensei?”

“Like learning to be a Medical Ninja,” He blurted.

“A Medic-Nin?” Chouji seemed curious, “I never thought about anything else.”

“You don't have to be a Medic-Nin—”

“I should be.” He was suddenly serious when he said, “Someone on our team needs to be one and I doubt Ino or Shikamaru wants to be.”

“Uh, that's not what I—”

"Thank you, Sensei!" He smiled with stars in his eyes, "I will talk to the hospital to see if a medic-nin can teach me!" He turned and ran back into the fray.

"Uhh," He stood there, "That is not how I thought that would go."

TechoL

TechoL

TechoL!

I think that went well!

He will be a good medic!

Can you imagine how strong Tsunade would make him?? Lol

L

He sighed.

Turning he paused, a shuffling in the bush was coming closer. Then a hog jumped through, Theseus looked up at him and snorted.

"Have you seen Puffy?" Theseus looked at him suspiciously.

He felt offended on Chouji's behalf, "Puffy?" That's the best you could come up with?"

Theseus shrugged (*As well as a swine could*), "He's fluffy and warm and big. You seen him?"

"Yes." He deadpanned, "You just missed him."

"Fuck!" Theseus jumped, "Where'd he go?!"

He pointed, "He's gunning for it."

"I'll get his ass and then he'll have to give me food," He ran off.

He sighed again. Time for Shikamaru.

Shikamaru was the hardest one to track down. He seemed to have figured out the pattern the pigs had. He seemed hesitant to pass them off to his teammates, though.

He told them to go for one of the others and trapped Shikamaru in a clearing. Hopping down behind him, the kid was waiting; probably clued into the pattern of stealing his teammates.

He walked up to him, "I am here to talk to you about your lack of skills—"

"Why are you trying to force us apart?" He interrupted.

Techno was taken off guard, "What?"

"The team," He dragged out, "Why are you trying to change it?"

Techno watched him, "I want you all capable and prepared."

"Prepared for *what*?" He exasperated.

"This world." He stated plainly, "And currently none of you is ready."

Shikamaru narrowed his brown eyes, "We are ninjas, and we are not at war. There is no rush."

"Not a rush," He shook his finger, "I doubt the way you are currently being taught will end up benefiting any of you."

"The way we are being taught, huh?" He shook his head.

"Yes," He said simply, "You might love your Sensei—but being taught for yourselves and not for a team or the village...will help you in the long run."

"And you know this how?" Shikamaru questioned.

He stared at him, "I knew a man. He was tall and handsome and intelligent—"

"What are you—"

"But he was one of the worst fighters I've ever seen. Truly terrible, and maybe it was because he didn't try or practice but I think I knew the real reason. It's because he was so sure of his abilities, so positive he could use his brain to get out of any situation that involved a fight—he didn't even own weapons."

Shikamaru was watching him, his body no longer slouched but alert, "Why are you telling me this?"

He ignored him, "And he was right. His intelligence was smart enough to keep him away from fights and keep him from getting hurt. He never raised a sword and he never tried. He outplayed and outsmarted everyone, he was almost untouchable."

Shikamaru was silent now, listening to the story, "But none of it mattered when someone smarter came along. Someone more clever, someone just as handsome, and someone more willing to put in the work. Because he had gotten *lazy*. Revelling in his intelligence and success; he didn't know what to do when someone more ready showed up."

"What happened to him?" He asked.

"He became the worst of the worst. Desperate to claim back his power until he decided...no one will have the power at all. Eventually, he destroyed the source of his strength."

"Himself," Shikamaru stated.

"Himself," Techno nodded, "But he never stopped being smart. So when he died, everything collapsed. Nothing good came from his death."

“Why this story?”

Techno looked out, “Because you are smart, and will grow to be tall and handsome. You are so smart you are willing to not put in the work for other things because you are sure of your intelligence and just like in that story...so is everyone else. They are also sure of your strength and because of that, *they* won't make you hold a sword or practice. That is far more dangerous than that story I told you. ”

“You know a lot of people,” He said suspiciously.

“I do,” He smirked, “ *And you could be better* . And if you don't get better, you can die or get others killed.”

“You think I am going to lose myself and cause problems because I'm, what jealous?”

“No he didn't do those things because he was jealous,” He shook his head, “He did it because he was desperate.”

“What is the moral of the story here? I know you are telling me to work harder and to not be so lazy...but you're trying to tell me something else,” He asked.

“I'm telling you to get over *yourself*,” He finally snapped, “You are smart and you could be better. And to be better might save a couple of your friends' lives.”

Shikamaru stared at him with keen eyes, “Maybe.”

“‘*Maybe?*’” He raised a brow.

“Maybe I will,” He crossed his arms, “If I want.”

“By the end of the day,” He stated, “Think of something you could do besides your family's technique.”

“Maybe,” Is all he said, “Are we done?”

He thought about it, “Yes.”

“Okay—”

“Actually,” He remembered, “You are going to teach Chouji Go and your strategies.”

“What—?”

“That's it.” He stated.

Shikamaru stared at him, “You are not what I expected Sakura's brother to be,”

“You know Sakura—?”

IT HAPPENED

THEY WERE ATTACKED!

SHE ALMOST DROWNED THIS TIME?!?

IS SHE OKAY?

KAKASHI'S DOWN!

ZABUZA IS STILL ALIVE??? HOW???

HAKU OBVIOUSLY

SAKURA ALMOST DIED!!

BLOOD!

BLOOD!

BLOOD!

He blinked at Shikamaru who looked startled, "I need to go see my Sensei."

Chapter End Notes

MY COMPUTER DIED RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS CHAPTER, RIP

also 50k words!

Sakura Six

Chapter Notes

Kinda filler-ish
enjoy before Techno barrels in

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Naruto and Tazuna carried Kakashi sensei most of the way.

She and Sasuke were too exhausted from the fight. She worried about a cough or any illness after being dunked into a lake and pulled back out. But they seemed to have avoided it narrowly.

Their bags were snagged and held by her and Sasuke. She quickly dug through for other clothes. Her brother had given her a blue undershirt that he claimed would look lovely with her. She put it on and tucked it into her new black and white striped pants. She put a well fitted shirt on top and wrapped her wounds in bandages. She did the same for her teammates. Naruto was almost fully healed and Sasuke was less scratched; it would seem she was the one who was mostly banged up.

Tazuna led them through a series of crooked houses with dull colours. An older dark house with a creaking balcony was their stop. They had been given suspicious and confused looks as they walked through. The people here are in rags and barely holding themselves together. It was tragic to see. Plenty of kids begging on the streets. It left her feeling hollow instead of grateful.

The door opened to a young woman, pretty with long black hair and an apron. Her eyes widened upon seeing them, “Father—come in, come in quickly!”

Tazuna and Naruto battered their way in with the sleeping Kakashi. They followed behind. Sasuke was wearing something similar to earlier, he had helped her perform a basic fire jutsu that steamed all the water off. She found the jutsu hard, and Sasuke told her it was probably opposite to her natural chakra. Water probably.

The woman hustled them up the stairs past two bedrooms. One was clearly a child’s room and the other was hers more than likely.

The final room they laid him down in. Tucking him into the cover she felt for his temperature. It was high but she noted it was not him but his chakra. It was tense and pulsating especially near his covered eye. She pulled away as Sasuke kneeled next to her.

He stared at Kakashi with a cautiousness that surprised her, “When will he wake?”

Her mouth dropped in surprise, “Oh, uh, It's probably just exhaustion. He should wake soon.”

“Good.” He stated.

“Are you going to ask him about it?” She asked.

“Yes.” Alright, back to the one word answers.

She stood, “I'm going to check on Naruto.” What did Ino *see* in this guy?

Downstairs Naruto was talking to the woman, Tazuna's daughter. She was asking him about the mission and he was giving a rather exaggerated tale of what had happened. She could tell this woman was a mom as she smiled politely and nodded at the right moment as she continued cooking.

Her steps were cautious as she made her way over. The woman looked up and nodded, “Food will be ready soon.”

“Oh hey Sakura!” Naruto grinned at her, “I was just telling Ms.Tsunami about our mission!”

“Thank you for letting us into your home, Ms.Tsunami,” She bowed.

Tsunami half smiled, “Of course—thank you for saving my father.”

“She's really cool! Did you know she helps old man build the bridge?” He said quickly.

Tsunami smiled at the term ‘ *old man*. ’ Sakura smiled as well, “Kakashi sensei shouldn't sleep too long. He's just sleeping now.”

Tsunami nodded, “Go get your friends—food is finished.”

Sakura blinked in shock before nodding and running back up the stairs. She passed a young boy who glared at her before rushing down. She opened the door.

Sasuke was still sitting next to sensei. He was staring at him with an unreadable expression, “Foods ready.” She called.

He nodded, eyes not moving, “Okay.”

“Careful with Ms.Tsunami,” She attempted to joke, “She seems like the type to refuse seconds.”

“Hmm,” Is all he said.

She sighed, “Come down when you stop being so depressing.” She turned and left before he could say anything else.

The house had photos all along the plank walls. She stared at them. She could see family resemblance looking at them. Everyone from Tazuna to the young boy had a heavy brow, even Tsunami. They all had dark hair and strong noses. It was almost startling compared to

the people back home; everyone was delicate and pretty. These people had a strength and hardness to them, a darkness to well used skin.

She fiddled with her blue shirt. She had no idea what to do, they can't just kill Gato, but they need to protect Tazuna (*And his family*). Hopefully Kakashi woke up soon.

The room was filled with a sweet smell, rice and cabbage, she thought.

Naruto was eating ravenously at the table. Tazuna was quietly speaking with his daughter and she was attempting to get the young boy to eat.

She sat at one of the empty spots, Tsunami looked up at her, "Your friend, Sasuke, not coming?"

"He might," She took some food, "He's just...worried." *She thinks.*

"But your sensei will be fine?" She pressured.

"Yes," She nodded, looking at Naruto.

"Then he should come eat," Tsunami finished, "We have no food to snack on and there might be no leftovers and then he will eat nothing. He needs to eat to gain his strength."

She felt kinda scared of her, "Y-yes ma'am."

"I wouldn't be worried about Sasuke!" Naruto spoke up, "We have some nutrition bars that will keep him full!"

"Still," Tsunami had strong piercing eyes with thick lashes, "Nothing is better for you than a home cooked meal."

They nodded.

She turned back to her son and encouraged him to eat more.

She and Naruto made eye contact over the table and she sighed. Hopefully Kakashi sensei woke up soon.

He woke up the next day as Tsunami was checking on him.

They were all in the main room, she pulled out the book Ren left for her. Sasuke had stared at her with narrowed eyes as he watched her read. She glared at him and tucked her book in closer.

The book was filled with notes from Ren. She had gotten her own pen put and had begun writing her own. She would reply to sarcastic things he said or questions. The stories were strange, they were biased and told tales of people so strong they could take on the Chakra

beasts. The characters were very one-dimensional and as she read it became obvious why Ren chose this one and wrote what he did.

The Senju were seen as heroics. Larger than life people with stronger abilities. They held a deep connection to nature and represented healing and balance. They were compared to their first and second Hokages, Tobirama and Hashirama. Called gods and praised.

In this story they were the villains.

It was almost entirely from the Uchiha's perspective. It was written by an insider in their clan. Someone who was not in charge but also knew what was happening.

The Senju demanded more land, the Senju refused to hand over red-eyes, the Senju besmirched our culture ... on and on it told of the Senju being the *worst*. It surprised her. They even wrote of smaller politics. *The Senju refuse to sell us fruits, the Senju are blocking our roads, the Senju are raising prices, it is constant*. She could see how a rivalry was born and why they declared war. They never liked each other but it was clear the Senju were not innocent.

Naruto asked her what she was reading and she told him history and he backed out instantly. Sasuke had gone from trying to look over her shoulder to refusing to look at her. One note in the book caught her eye from Ren.

These nerds started their own downfall.

It was at the end of the book. When they wrote of Madara and how he promised to bring the Uchiha to a higher standard only to descend further. It didn't go into Hashirama and his fight but the politics around it. But she hadn't gotten that far.

They heard Tsunami speaking sternly. They all looked at each other before jumping up and running to Kakashi's room.

He was lying in the bed dazed. His clothes had been dry when they got him here but they haven't been changed. His grey eye was alert but his eyebags showed he was still exhausted. He was focused on getting a dressing down from the cool Tsunami. They entered the room.

"Sensei awake!" Naruto cheered, his face happy and warm.

Sakura leaned over her teacher and jokingly said, "Sensei, your Sharingan is cool and all but you really shouldn't use it if it drains you."

He eye smiled, "Sorry."

Tazuna, who cut into the room when he heard Naruto, grumbled out, "Yeah, but he took down one of Mists most powerful ninjas. So we shouldn't have to worry for awhile."

"But what about the Tracker Nin?" Sakura asked.

"They should cause no issues," Kakashi tiredly explained, "The village in the Mist was after Zabuza for abandoning them. Now that he is...dead, he will be completely erased and any

and all Jutsu's destroyed."

"Creepy," Naruto shivered.

"These precautions were put in place for a reason Naruto," Kakashi hummed, "Our bodies hold many secrets and power—you don't want your body in the wrong hands. Especially if they have forbidden jutsu."

"Blegh," Naruto shook his head, gagging exaggeratedly, "I would hate to have that job."

Kakashi cocked his head, "It's considered quite the honour in any village. The ANBU are the highest order a jounin can hold without being a Kage. But the Trackers in ABNU are rather important, especially for any Missing-Nin."

"Cause they are the ones who keep secrets from getting out," Sakura summarised.

"Mhm," Kakashi closed his eye, "Do we have any food?"

Ms. Tsunami came in. In her hands was steaming soup, and a piece of bread. They moved out of her way. She leaned down and sat it next to him before turning her sharp eyes to him, "You better eat it all. I do not save food for just anyone—or bread."

She stood and walked out of the room.

Kakashi leaned up, and grabbed it, "So I suppose we made it."

"We got here yesterday," Sakura said.

Kakashi slurped his soup, "Anyone contacted the village?"

They blinked at each other.

He sighed, "That's a no then."

"I don't know how—"

"Don't worry I will take care of it," He nodded.

Sakura sighed, "Get better sensei."

His grey eye looked at her, "I will try."

She stood with Naruto scrambling behind her. They exited the room with a '*good-bye*.' She hoped he got better, they had no hope without him.

before the other shoe drops...
30 CHAPTERS!

Technoblade Seven

Chapter Notes

enjoy angst

“I’m afraid you cannot go.”

Techno was unmoved, “I need to.”

“My youthful, hip student, I understand you might be worried but the possibility—”

This is what happens when the main character does something, “It’s not a possibility, it has happened and will get worse.”

Gai sensei sighed in front of him. Techno had sent his students home and ran here, to the mission centre. Gai sensei had just gotten back from teaching his team.

Gai sensei put his hands on his hips, “The reason you can’t go is simple. Kakashi has no asked for backup and as my student you cannot leave with reason—”

“Don’t send me as your student,” He asked, “I will just go as a civilian.”

Gai looked off to nothing, he spoke quietly, “If you go as a civilian I cannot go with you nor can you have backup.”

Techno didn’t hesitate, “That’s fine—I just need to warn them.”

Sensei looked at him with his deep set eyes, “I have never questioned your thoughts or where you get all of these ‘*knowings*’ from...but others might. And you are very precious to me and I want you safe.”

Techno recoiled slightly and his breath caught, “I will be fine—don’t worry I just want to...”

But it was a lie, he didn’t want to just warn them—he wanted to fight and protect them.

Gai smiled at him, “You have been my student for many years. I know what you want to do. But...I do not worry for you in a fight, I worry for what the council or Hokage might think about you.”

“What if I...” He stuttered, “And if Kakashi sends a missive?”

Gai grinned, “Then we will go get Kakashi and his team!”

He felt panicked and Chat wasn't helping. Whispering of potential death and suffering, it filled him with dread. He knew that Kakashi would send his missive and that it would state 'mission handled with a need for a longer time.' He understood Kakashi would handle it but with the way it's going...someone will end up dead.

"Have faith, Ren." Gai laid his hand on his shoulder, "Kakashi will take care of them and his team and your sister are capable."

Techno turned his pink head, "But I know they might get hurt." *Will*

Gai smiled at him, "Every mission breeds the chance of getting hurt. That is why we take missions."

"Yeah, yeah," he mumbled.

Gai laughed, "I know but you have to calm down with your sister. She will be fine, she's knows what she signed up for."

No she doesn't, "Okay."

"Now how is your team?"

He blinked, thinking back to earlier that day, "I have convinced Chouji to be a Medic and Ino to be..." He thought back, "A Genjutsu Mistress."

Gai blinked, "Oh. Well I am glad they have new horizons to cover!"

"Chouji said he could find his own teacher but Ino asked for one," He looked to his sensei, "Do you know anyone?"

Gai stroked his chin, "I do believe I know someone. I will have to get back to you in a few days; however, she might not be up to having a personal student right now."

"Okay, cool." He was relieved, he didn't want to ask around.

"What about the young Nara?" He asked, turning and beginning his walk to the mission desk.

Techno followed, "He doesn't like my teaching methods."

Sensei laughed, "I thought so, Nara's are rather traditional. They tend to dislike change and people attempting change."

"He thought I was trying to get in between his team or something..." He drawled.

Gai pulled out a paper from nowhere, "You have to assure him you are just trying to help him. But I do doubt he will change his mind until he understands differently."

Techno rolled his dark eyes, "He doesn't need to understand—he should just take my advice."

They came to a check-in counter where Gai handed over his papers, "But you know, my student, that people do not work like that—especially smart ones."

The desk-ninja nodded to him and they turned to leave.

"If he was smarter he wouldn't have to listen to me at all because he would already know." He huffed.

" *That's* because he's a child," Gai said jokingly.

"Nerd," Techno mumbled.

"Indeed!" Gai nodded, "But for now you must be patient. Your sister will be fine and your students will be fine. You are all still young and we will watch over you."

"Mhm," Techno mumbled.

"I'm glad we had this talk!" Gai cheered.

"Of course, sensei." Techno nodded.

Doubt.

He was planning to leave that night.

Leaving in the middle of the night was suspicious but he hoped it kept him off most people's radar. He already told his new team he might 'stay home' and he told his parents he would be gone almost all day.

Absolutely foolproof.

The night was especially dark as he crept out of his window. His axe was on his back and he wore almost all black (*except for his bloody red under the cloak*).

Chat was quietly gossiping about what 'Zabuza' and 'Haku' were doing. They were fan favourites apparently.

He landed on the ground silently. There were no noises and Chat hadn't noticed anyone. He adjusted his bag and sighed.

"Let's go, chat." He mumbled.

They cheered as he made his way down the road. He hoped he made it before anyone died.

"Are you going to leave?"

He stopped. He turned around with a sigh.

Tenten was standing behind him. She was holding her sword and wearing an over the top outfit. He almost smiled at it.

"Why are you here?" He narrowed his eyes.

She steeled herself, "Gai told us you might be in trouble. And Lee mentioned you were asking about your sister."

"Leave." He pressed, before attempting to do so.

"No! Wait!" She ran to him.

He stopped and grabbed her in and hid them in a building gap.

He glared down at her, "Stay quiet, ninja don't tend to like people leaving their village."

"You don't care!" She argued, "You know you will get in trouble if you leave and you don't care about getting in trouble!"

"It doesn't mean I want people to see me," He leaned away from her.

"Because they would stop you?" Her brown eyes glared at him, "Or because you don't want anyone you know to be disappointed when you never come back?"

He flinched back harshly, "I-I would come back."

She stared at him, "Would you? You talk all the time about how you hate this place and don't like it."

"That...that doesn't mean I want to leave," he said slowly.

"Doesn't it?" She said sadly.

"No," he argued.

"Then why are you doing this knowing you won't come back?"

He gazed at her. His mind was working fast and Chat was telling him different things. "Why would I leave?"

"You know why!" She walked up to him, "If you do this without reason and go—someone will notice and you hate people who try to use you! You would never put yourself in such a position unless you had a plan...and the only plan would be to leave."

He stared at her almost wide eyed. He was at a loss for words, he didn't realise she was paying that much attention to him. Perhaps unconsciously he did know he would leave and fall to temptation and just leave but...

"I can't." He stated helplessly.

Her wide set brown eyes stared at him confused, "What do you mean?"

He thought about his next words and cringed, "I couldn't leave my people until I knew they would be okay."

She continued to look confused, "But you only ever talk about how much you hate this place and...you only ever criticise us."

He cringed, "It's because I care about you." *Death. He required death.*

She stared at him in shock, "You know...between you and Neji, me and Lee actually voted Neji would tell us he cared about us first. You just...." She appeared frustrated, "Neji is easier. He's arrogant and frustrated but he tries really hard because he refuses to lose. But you...you don't even act like us! It's like you're decades older! Sometimes you're more like Gai sensei but...I don't know what you want!"

He stood there awkwardly as she broke down screaming, "I don't want anything—"

"Then why do you expect so much?" She cut into him, "I don't mean to be...cruel. But I have never even seen you cry. How do you say you care for us?"

He has never been so frozen. Typically he would cut back, but he felt choked.

"Do not leave." She begged quietly, "I know you will love us then. Not because you abandoned your sister. But because you put yourself first and considered all of your options. And because you know deep down...nothing will truly harm your sister."

He swallowed and looked out at the streets. Sakura was a main character. As was everyone on their team. They would not die or be seriously hurt but...

"I want to protect her..." he whispered.

Tenten looked away from him, "But if you leave to help her now you will never be able to help her later."

He stared at nothing with blank red eyes, "I don't want her to suffer." *Not like Tommy, or Ranboo, or Tubbo, or any of them . Or me .*

Tenten swallowed but looked him in the eye, "You can't prevent that."

He barely moved, "I should try."

"You won't succeed." She pressed.

"I need to try!" He yelled at her.

She refused to move, "You could make things worse now. She will need you later. You can't save her from everything. Nobody can."

He could see a deep strength and sadness in her and he's never felt so torn.

“You have to wait,” She said, “Because of politics and other stupid things...but if you don’t you will never be able to help and only make her life harder.”

“And if she needs help?” His voice broke.

Tenten looked at the empty streets, “Then wait for the chance.”

They stood in silence. He slowly pulled himself back together, quieting Chat and calming them. He straightened and cleared his face, “Come on.”

She stared at him sadly, and straightened herself. She followed as he walked down the road.

They walked in silence while he stared ahead thinking of what happened. He didn't think anyone would stop him, especially not Tenten...maybe he was being too lax in this world. Refusing to do much and only complaining. Taking the people around him for granted...

They stopped at a tall building.

Tenten looked up confused, “Why are we at my house?”

“You have training tomorrow with Gai sensei.”

She looked saddened, “So this is goodbye?”

He sighed, “Until the Gai’s asks me to the training sessions.”

She said nothing. She suddenly started walking to her building. She didn't even pause before yelling back, “See you in a few hours!”

He said nothing. Watching her swing her sword and scale the side of the building. Techno sighed and turned and headed home.

I can leave tomorrow.

Kakashi Three

Chapter Notes

So, how cold is us Americans?
Nice blizzard we getting eh?
Glad Im a little warmer

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

He woke to immediate awareness. His body tensed and he used his chakra to scope out the room. His chakra was weak, body (*only slightly*) broken, and his brats were not with him.

He was in a room, small and weary. There was another person next to him, a civilian, as their chakra pool was small. The fabric he touched was soft, civilian bought. They were up higher as a salty breeze came into the room. A second floor or third floor. He had none of his weapons and he was too weak, and he couldn't sense too far. There could be more.

Kakashi peeled open his eye. He locked onto the person in the room.

It was a handsome woman—definitely a civilian—she had long brown hair. She looked to be working in the room, quietly folding clothes.

She had no weapon.

Her instincts were strong as her head shot towards his. She squinted at him, “So you are awake, sensei?”

He felt exposed under her eyes, he rethought the idea of her being a civilian, “Yes.”

She stood and walked over to him. She stood over him powerfully, “Good. Your students are worried and my father needs his *actual* bodyguard.” Her dress swished as she walked to the door.

His students came in after.

They fed him and left, allowing him to heal. They came later to talk to him and he figured that would be the best moment to destroy their world.

“Zabuza’s alive.”

They all stared at him. He figured laughing would be rude,

“ *WHAT?!*”

He winced. Sakura was talking quickly, clearly upset. Nartuto was screaming and Saskue was silent but wide-eyed. Tazuna was yelling as well asking how.

He sat up and they went quiet. He sighed feeling dizzy, “Yes I'm afraid he's alive and more than likely working with the Tracker-nin.”

Sakura leaned over, “Sensei you need to lay down—”

Naruto interrupted, “No! Sensei needs to tell us about Zabuza—”

“He can do that while laying down!” She yelled back.

“We need to be ready,” Sasuke cut in, “Kakashi sensei needs to be up—”

“He needs rest! He could permanently damage himself—”

He loudly coughed.

They turned to him.

“Sakura,” He turned to her, voice patient, “Thank you but I will be okay. And Naruto calm down. I *do* still need rest. And Sasuke,” He nodded, “We will be ready.”

They nodded.

“But...” Naruto started, “How is he alive? We... We saw him die.”

“And the Tracker-nin, I thought they were hunting Zabuza?” Sakura asked.

He looked over them, “I don't think that Tracker-nin *was* a Tracker-nin.”

“How?” Sasuke demanded.

His grey eye wandered over them, Sakura looked contemplative and Naruto purely confused, “When a Tracker-nin kills their target they destroy their targets bodies and traces immediately to avoid any allies of theirs to get ahold of them.”

“They didn't follow protocol!” Sakura suddenly announced, “That's why it was weird! They took the body and left!”

He felt a pride in his chest, “He more than likely stepped in to help, and get him away before I killed him.”

“They were working together the whole time,” Sasuke mumbled furiously.

“Wait, hold on!” Naruto was looking between all of them, “How is he even alive?! Those senbon went straight into his neck!”

“Senbons are often medical weapons,” Sakura explained, “Used to hit pressure points and hit precise almost miniscule spots.”

“But how...?” Naruto looked lost.

“It can give the appearance of death.” Kakashi stated, “If done extremely delicately.”

“So... They are both coming for us,” Naruto said plainly, “And sensei isn't even able to get out of bed without wincing... What are we gonna do!?”

Kakashi sighed before pulling himself to his feet. They all gasped and tried to grab onto him as he groaned to a stand. He stood shakily, “My leg needs to be wrapped and I am going to need crutches.”

Sakura ran over to the bags grabbing bandages to splint his leg. Tazuna stumbled out of the room, no doubt searching for his crutches.

Sakura came over and crouched next to him. Saskue leaned down and held it down as she gently wrapped it. He smiled to himself looking at his students, Naruto hugging his side babbling to him, Sakura wrapping with a quiet intensity and Sasuke begrudgingly helping.

They might just make it.

Tazuna stumbled in a second later holding some homemade crutches. Sakura pulled back and they propped them under him.

He closed his eye and focused, healing his leg would be instant. But did he want to now? No, not yet. He needed time and he needed his students to focus on something else.

A child ran into the room. Smaller than his and obviously civilian.

They ran to Tazuna screaming Grandpa. They comforted each other.

Kakashi glanced out the window thoughtfully.

Perhaps I need to actually teach them something.

“Training is an important step to any Shinobi’s life, it allows them to test out new abilities and practice and perfect technique. And now you might be asking why I haven't trained any of you at all—”

“Yeah, it sure would have been useful.”

“—It’s because I wanted all of you to work together on missions first and to improve your stamina and to keep all of you...on your toes.”

His kids were all glaring at him.

“But now, I'm afraid, you need training. So I will be showing you a basic skill you will all have to know.” Kakashi finished with a smile.

He turned and with his crutches in tow he stepped up onto a tree and walked up it. He could hear their gasp of awe, “I want all of you able to walk up to the top of a tree and back down by the end of the day.” He stood upside down.

“How do we...?” Sakura stared at him as Naruto ran past her and attempted to stand on his own tree. Naruto placed a foot on it before being ejected into the other side of the forest. His teammates stared after him in awe and confusion.

He chuckled to himself, ignoring a past memory he continued, “Good try, maybe you should not use so much chakra.”

“You're using chakra to stick to it,” Sakura mumbled to herself.

Sasuke walked over and pressed his foot into it. It slowly slid off the tree back to the grass.

“Now you're using too little,” He said cheerfully.

Sasuke glared at him before trying again. He got two steps up before slowly sliding back to the ground.

Naruto appeared out of the bushes bright eyed, “Alright! Again!” He ran at the tree and ran up multiple steps before being ejected.

Kakashi smiled to himself, ready to pull out his book, “It might take awhile—”

“GOT IT!”

They all turned their heads to another tree. At the top near the canopy was Sakura, standing upside down. She was waving to them, cheering.

He blinked, she moved fast, “Well done.”

“Woah! Sakura, how did you do that?!” Naruto yelled up to her.

“How did she...?” Sasuke mumbled in disbelief.

He smirked to himself before speaking coyly, “Well it looks like Sakura is the best of this bunch. I doubt you will get any close to her spot in a few days let alone one.”

His boys turned to him, Sasuke scowling looking up, and Naruto looking saddened before determining himself.

Well that should get them going.

He looked up at his pinkest member, “Sakura, can you come with me?”

They all looked at him. Sasuke put it together the fastest, turning away fuming. Sakura stared at him, “What do you need, sensei?”

“What do I need?” He mocked, “Well thank you for asking, I need to actually teach you something after you breezed through my day long task.”

“Oh,” She blushed.

“Yes,” He casually walked down to the ground, “Come with me while these two *attempt* to run up a tree.”

She looked down nervously, “What if I just jump?”

He shrugged, “You will probably be fine—especially if you can use it. Most babies do it unconsciously.”

She mumbled something like *‘I’m not a baby’* before simply sliding down the tree and landing next to him. She grinned smugly next to him.

Another explosion and Naruto landed next to them, he looked up at the tree disgruntled before turning to Sakura.

“Hey Sakura!” He loudly whispered, taking a glance at the struggling Sasuke, “How’d you do that so fast?”

She blinked at him, before also peeking at Sasuke, “Just don’t tell Sasuke—make him come to you.”

Kaksahi sighed, truthfully he hoped Naruto and Sasuke would rival each other as they were closer in power, but Sasuke and Sakura had a certain distaste towards each other. While Naruto had no issue talking to either of them, and Sasuke was too busy hating that Sakura refused to bend to his expectations while she hated that he tried to set these boundaries. It would end horribly for them, because sadly Sasuke would end up over her, he simply was genetically bred to be the better fighter.

That doesn’t mean she can’t beat him. As Uchiha are made for power, not stamina. They don’t last long in battle. They aren’t made to live long lives. Not anymore at least. Not the ones that he knows (*He doesn’t really know him anymore does he? Let’s not talk about the other ones*).

She might just outlive him, he thought morbidly amused.

“Come along Sakura,” He nodded to her.

She jogged over to him calling a bye to the boys. They walked past multiple shrines and people. Eventually they came to an empty beach. He looked down at her.

Suddenly with no hesitation, he tossed his crutches aside and casually continued walking onto the water and stopped and turned around.

His pinky student was looking at him with a dropped jaw. Her green eyes were blinking quickly. She pointed at him but no words came out.

“Come on,” He chuckled to himself, “If you can walk on a tree in one go you can walk on some water.”

She shook her head, “Wha—How?!”

He looked down at himself, his green vets and plain pants, “What? How am I standing on water? Do I really have to explain that to my smartest pupil—”

“I thought you were hurt?!” She yelled baffled.

“Oh,” He cocked his head, “I guess I am.”

She continued to be confused.

“Well if I will tell you anything, you're going to have to come to me,” He said coyly.

She narrowed her eyes at him before hesitantly putting a foot forward.

Sakura would fall through the water multiple times while he read his book. She was again soaked, in her nice Ren approved outfit.

He hummed slowly, putting down his book to look at the wet rat of his student. He smiled gleefully at her, “That took a little bit longer than your tree walking that’s for sure, but you did make it quickly I suppose.”

She was glaring fiercely at him, “Fix it.”

He sighed, before putting his hand together and dried her off instantly, “Alright, then I guess you do want to hear about my leg.”

She simply nodded. She pulled out her long pink hair, and began combing through it.

He hummed, “Well the truth is simply that you don't really feel much when you get to my situation.”

She snorted, “Old?”

He gasped, “Rude. And no, I mean when you’ve been getting stabbed and bruised as often as I do—you don't feel much anymore. Or you learn to live with it.”

Her young eyes narrowed at him, “You shouldn't do that—you could permanently hurt yourself if you ignore it.”

Humming deep in his chest, he smiled, “You sound like Medics—I don't really like Medics.”

“Yeah, bet they don't like you either,” She murmured, rolling her eyes.

“They don't,” He said cheerfully, “But anyway…”

She began wrapping her hair into a bun, “Why did you bring me out here?”

“Well,” He began walking towards a dock, “I mostly wanted to see how fast you could water walk—only took you half an hour—because I believe you would need the skill the most.”

“Need?” She shakily followed him.

“Yes,” He hummed, “After last time with Zabuza, you definitely need a better way to get yourself out since it seems you're not a strong swimmer.”

She went red, “It was the only out I saw.”

They came to the dock to which he hopped up on, he held a hand out to her, “It was a good out—Zabuza didn't expect it, but you need to be able to get yourself out.”

She took his hand and sat next to him on the small dock, “Yes, sensei.”

“Good,” He looked at the sky, “I want you to go watch Tazuna while practising your walking. Water, tree, building, it doesn't matter but practice while watching over him.”

She nodded to herself standing, “Will do, sensei.”

“Oh and Sakura?” he called as she walked away, “If Sasuke asks for help, help him.”

She paused shoulder tensing before relaxing, “Only if he asks me nicely.”

“Sometimes he might be cruel without knowing,” He said, “Don't be cruel back.”

He could see her clench her fist, “Yes, sensei.”

She was too well taught to refuse an order but she was certainly young enough to hate it, “Go.”

Sakura left to find the bridge builder.

Kakashi slouched when she was gone before pulling out two scrolls from his vest. He sat one down, bloodied his thumb and summoned Pakkun.

The lazy dog looked up at him, “What'd you got, boss?”

He handed him the other scroll, “Mission report.”

Pakkun straightened before nodding and taking the scroll, “Got it, see you soon.”

He turned and ran off into the trees.

Kakashi sighed. He put his hand over his covered eye, “Kids are so stressful, Obito—I think you would have been better at this than me...they certainly would like you more.”

Why is Sasuke the hardest one to write?!
he's just so emo.

Sakura Seven

Chapter Notes

sorry for vanishing.
Went on vacation for New Years.
Also happy New Years!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Sakura turned to look at Ino.

“Why do you like Sasuke so much?” She whispered to her blonde friend as they watched the boy in question from a distance.

Ino snorted, “What’s not to like? He’s cool, he’s pretty and he’s an Uchiha.”

Sakura scrunched her nose, “What does that mean?”

Ino sighed. She looked away from Sasuke and at her small pink friend, “You wouldn’t get it.”

Sakura looked away. Her green eyes stared at her friend, “Is it a clan thing?”

“Kinda,” Ino shrugged, “He’s also just really cute, don’t ya think?”

Sakura looked at the brooding glaring boy, “Is being an Uchiha a big deal?”

Ino looked uncomfortable, “I guess, my dad talks about them sometimes but I just like how cool they are.”

Sakura bit her lip, “What about other clans like the Hyuga or Aburame orNara’s?”

Ino sat down and pulled at her purple sleeves, “Well, the Hyuga’s are terrifying—except for Hinata, she’s really nice—but the rest of them are kinda creepy and uptight, like they have a lot of standards and are ‘traditionalists’ or something. The Aburame are weird, with their bugs and everything, but they are just really quiet. They mostly stick to themselves and don’t get involved. But the Nara’s...”

Ino groaned, “Shikamara and his dad are so frustrating, they are so lazy and hate everything. But his dad is really smart and good at his job, but they can be so annoying. Shikamaru especially—can you believe I’m going to be on a team with him?”

Sakura blinked, “What?”

“Yeah! I know! Me and him on a team! We can barely talk to each other without arguing. Can you imagine us working together—”

“How do you know you will be on a team together?” Sakura interrupted her friend.

Ino shook her head, “It's because of tradition, our clans all lived together and now we all work together.”

Sakura hummed before changing the subject, “Is it cause the Uchiha helped found Konoha?”

Ino hummed, “Probably.”

Sakura stewed in her information. She barely heard Ino squeal about Saskue getting up to talk to Iruka-sensei. It was strange, the idea that the clan kids were packaged. Planned and ready to be shipped off. It could feel good, she thought, to have a plan and assurance for their future or you could be like Naruto Uzamiki and carve out your own life. She wondered what it was like to be Sasuke Uchiha, having such a straightforward life—

She ran back-and-forth past the bridge. The water splashed as her feet hit the surface. Her breathing was heavy. Sakura had been running around on the water for almost two hours, the sun was beginning to set. Tazuna has been grumbling working on the bridge since she's been here.

Her legs were trembling, and her chakra was running on fumes. Truthfully she was hoping to go back and to pass out. She hoped she wouldn't be forced to talk to Sasuke or Naruto. Or interact with Tazuna and his daughter and grandson. Or Kakashi sensei.

Anyone really.

She missed Ren to the tenth degree. She felt ashamed acting so childish in front of Kakashi. Refusing to talk to Sasuke and being petty was rare for her but not unheard of.

She slid to a stop at the end of the water. She coughed loudly and Tazuna yelled from the top of the bridge, “You done yet or you still trying to exhaust yourself?”

She sighed, getting up and walking up the bridge, “I'm just trying to perfect my water walking.”

He snorted, “Sure, and where is the loud mouth and stuck up boy?”

“Probably still trying to perfect tree walking,” She bragged subtly.

“Oh cause you already got it,” He chuckled to himself as he bent down to pick up a large metal bar.

She scowled at him, “Yes.” She walked over and grabbed the bar from him, “Where do you want this?”

He blinked at her from behind his glasses, “Over there on the right.”

She sighed and walked it over and laid it down. She rolled her shoulder, she had over used her chakra today and certainly would feel it tomorrow.

“Why are you avoiding them?”

She sighed, “Kakashi sensei wants me to be nicer to Sasuke.”

“Why?” He asked.

“Probably to be a better team,” She murmured, “Or because me not helping him is making him a worse ninja.”

“And how does that make you feel?”

She sighed, “Why is it that being good at one thing means I have to help the others when they never had to help me?”

“Help?” He said working on the bridge.

“Yeah! Sasuke’s great at tons of things and he's never helped me or Naruto. But now I'm good at something and I have to help him?!” She was almost yelling by the end.

He paused, “You jealous, kid?”

She shook her head, “No I just...I just wish I could have something special about me.”

Tazuna ran a hand through his thin hair, “I agree with your teacher, you need to at least talk with the Uchiha. Put away your grievances and learn to work together.”

She bent over with a sigh, pink hair falling over her face, “I know.”

“Tonight.” He decided for her, “You do it tonight or I tell my daughter neither of you get food.”

She paled slightly, “I will be sure to.”

Tonight came too fast.

Sasuke and Naruto showed up right before dinner. She made sure to nod at Tazuna to tell him she would talk to him.

Dinner was strangely tense, not between her and Sasuke but between Sasuke and Naruto. Sasuke refuses to look at him and Naruto makes unsubtle glances between her and Sasuke. Seems like they also had their own talk while training.

Kakashi sensei looked completely ignorant to his students eating and complimenting the terrifying Tsunami. Tsunami was watching her son with a distinct sadness, Inari was staring at a portrait on the wall where a piece of it was torn out.

She was tensely eating her dinner waiting for the chance to talk to him. He refused to look at her when Naruto suddenly turned to her and whispered, "You gotta ask Sasuke about your book."

Her jaw dropped, "What?"

"Sasuke!" He continued, "You have to ask him about that book you were reading."

"The Senju and...Uchiha book?" She wondered aloud.

"Yeah!" Naruto nodded, his blue eyes sparkling, "Ask him!"

She nodded, "Alright, after dinner."

"Cool!" Naruto reached over and attempted to take seconds.

His hand was smacked away, "Not for you," Tsunami shook her head, "Your sensei needs it. He's injured and needs his strength if my father is attacked again."

She glared at their silver haired teacher, but he only shrugged happily and took his seconds.

A loud thud rang out and the picture that Inari was looking at fell.

They all turned to look at it. It laid face first on the ground, Naruto stood on shaky legs and bent down and picked it up. He carefully hung it back up. He blinked at it curiously, "Why is a piece of it torn?"

"Sasuke!" Sakura suddenly yelled standing up, "I need to talk to you."

She turned and walked out of the room to the one they were staying at. She sat on the edge of the window and waited. A moment later she was joined by a stoic Sasuke.

They stared at each other. She decided to break the ice, "Why are you interested in my book?"

Sasuke looked away, "It's a..." He mumbled something she couldn't hear.

"What?" She asked, squinting.

"It's an Uchiha book," he spoke louder.

"Oh," A lightbulb went off, "Yeah! The book is written by an Uchiha, they were talking about the Senju and their relationship..." She drew off.

Sasuke looked uncomfortable, "How did you get it?"

"It's my older brother, Ren, he buys and trades books all the time," She explained.

He looked almost pained at the mention of 'older brother' and she was reminded of his older brother, Itachi Uchiha.

“How did he get it?” He seemed to pull the question from his soul.

“When he travels with our parents he collects things and books from out of Konoha. That book he found in the land of...sand?” She shrugged.

He looked away, “Books written by Uchiha are typically kept in the Uchiha library or burned.”

She blinked, “I'm not giving the book to you.”

He scoffed, “I don't want it. It's just...no one should have it.”

She felt slightly bad, “I don't know how—”

“The library was raided,” He suddenly said.

She shifted in her chair, “What?”

“After,” He stared at nothing, “After everyone...disappeared...the Uchiha library was raided and lots of books and artefacts were stolen. And that book I know was specifically kept tucked away because of the subject matter.”

“The Senju..?” She questioned.

He nodded, eyes still blank.

She nodded to herself, “You can read it if you want.”

He looked at her shocked before simply nodding.

“And...” She looked out the window, “I don't want to argue with you and be petty with you anymore.”

He turned to her, his dark onyx eyes ablaze, “Because Kakashi told you so?”

She glared at him, “No—because it hurts the team and we need to get over our annoyances and work more with Naruto.”

He grimaced, “And what is the problem?”

“Your ignorance!” She yelled at him, “You are so arrogant and sure of your importance that you look down on everyone else! Including me and Naruto!”

He stared her down, “I don't need to look down to be sure that I'm better than both of you.”

She scoffed loudly, “Better than us? You were taught to be better! Given better opportunities! And even then you have no right to treat us like we are less than because you are so righteous! You even look down on Kakashi sensei! As if he isn't thousands of times stronger than you!”

“He acts like a fool,” Sasuke said simply, “If he wants respect then he should act like he wants it.”

She scoffed, “He doesn't need to work for your respect. Because he's already more powerful and capable than you will ever be.”

“I will get stronger,” Sasuke ground out.

“And yet you will never be strong enough,” She stated.

He twisted quickly and glared at her, “Shut up!”

“In fact I doubt you'll ever get stronger than anyone in your family.”

“Shut your mouth!” He screamed.

“Because you will never be stronger than your brother—”

“SHUT UP!” He yelled, face red, “You don't know what you are talking about! And you have no right to talk about it!”

“Because you refuse to respect me—”

“No!” He shook his head, glaring with a harsh ferocity, “Because you don't understand what I feel or my righteousness! I have an obligation! A destiny! And my righteousness is far better than your holier-than-thou view on me and others like me! Because you don't believe you are better but you think you have the right to speak on everything! And you don't! You don't understand! No one does.”

She flinched back but held her glare, “I will apologise when you do.”

He scoffed looking riled still, “I will not apologise until you do.”

“Then no one apologises.” She clenched her fist, ‘Till then.”

She turned and walked out of the room. She stumbled back slightly as his words caught up to her. Her green eyes filled with tears as she made her way back to the dining room. She wiped her eyes and sniffed her now stuffy nose. She didn't want to admit she felt bad, but she knew bringing up his brother was too far. She just wanted him to apologise, but now they both would never.

She sniffed as she entered the room pausing when she saw the scene.

Naruto was looking more determined than ever, Kakashi was sighing into his book and Tsunami was crying as was Tazuna.

“What happened?!” She called.

man, I love writing people doing stupid things.

Technoblade Eight

Chapter Notes

so, I vanished.

I have a good reason!"

I got Covid...so I had to quarantine. and it was pretty awful, I couldn't really leave from my bed.

Im good now but...it sucked.

Hope everyone is having a good new year! lol

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Techno attempted normalcy. He showed up to his new team, told Ino she would have a teacher, supported Chouji with his new classes and asked Shikamaru about what he wanted to do.

Shikamaru answered dryly, "Maybe I'll just become a taijutsu type."

He beat Shikamaru especially hard during training for that. He had Ino sit out for some of their exercises so she could work with her chakra. He had her meditate and even read some books about the senses. He had Chouji work on water walking and tree walking the most. And he even took them out for ramen. All the while he quizzed Shikamaru on his strategy.

He also ignored the eyes watching him the whole time.

But still he went home with his head pounding from Chat and exhausted from having to socialise.

Sleep did not come well. The next day he knew that the Hokage would get Kakashi's mission report. Then a few days later they would be attacked again. And someone would *die*.

He needed to leave in at least two days to be able to help with the fight. At this rate he would show up just to acquire a new Chat member.

The next day was much the same.

He came to Gai's training that morning. Apparently they were taking their own C rank, a simple home clean up. The home was a ninja's home thus slightly more dangerous. Neji would be useful.

The training was good and he ignored Tenten's beaming smile when she saw him. He appreciated Lee's massive improvement. The boy was fantastic and extremely dedicated, though he will never be stronger than him—he could be faster.

Tenten was better but she still had issues escaping her traditionalism. She wanted to use simple ninja tactics and was averse to using ninjutsu or even genjutsu. She desired to be purely taijutsu and just use her weapons.

He asked Gai if he could help train her. If she wanted to be what she was, then a skill that could help her is to be able to make herself silent and unseen. So he summoned his three pigs of fate and told her to attempt to hide and take them out one by one. It was slow going and she was caught multiple times but she got at least two of them by the time lunch came.

Neji was...worse. With the Chunin Exams coming up he seemed even more determined to prove himself. He was more vicious and cruel with his words. Talking down to Lee and his willpower, mocking Tenten's self-preservation. He even *dared* to talk to Techno as if he was lower than him because he wasn't 'technically a ninja.'

Which is funny cause he's actually right on that one. After all he's just a civilian and Neji is a Hyuga *and* a genin meaning he takes higher precedent.

Still it's too bad he still won't become a Medic, he could certainly learn from Chouji's bedside manner.

The Chunin Exams were causing everyone to be tense. He noticed the flurry of activity from the village. Everyone was getting ready for the other hidden villages to come. His own family were working themselves and their employees to death to create the perfect souvenirs. He has never knitted so many sweaters.

The missive from Kakashi showed up that day. As expected, what wasn't expected was the news from Gai.

"You leave in two days!" Gai gave him a thumbs up.

He blinked his reddish eyes, "What?"

Gai held out a paper, "I have gotten permission to send you to go bring Kakashi and his team home!"

He carefully plucked it out of his sensei's calloused palm. It was a scroll signing off on sending Gai sensei's eldest student to collect Kakashi Hatake and his team for the Chunin Exams. Techno looked up at his teacher with a blank face, "'By any means necessary?' Why?"

Gai sighed, "The council is nervous about the other villages coming into Konoha, they want all of their ninja's here when people start showing up. Including one of their best ninja's currently active and in the field."

"The Exams are a few weeks away," Techno stated.

Gai smiled kindly at him, "I told the Hokage it was better to be safe than sorry, and that he needed his students here training and not on a mission."

"You did it for me," He realised looking up with disbelief.

“Of course,” Gai laughed, “I trust you, and your...psychic-ness and I trust you to take care of any problems you see.”

Techno was still sitting in disbelief, staring at his sensei through his long pink hair. Chat was cooing like parents watching a toddler.

He trusts us!!!

TechnoPog!

<3 Gai's the best

Let's kill Gato!

Save Sakura first plz!

Bushy Brows is so nice...

“Two days?” He asked, *He might just make it.*

“Yes! You may leave in exactly two days!” Gai winked at him.

“In exactly...” He will be leaving in the middle of the night then.

“But you must wait until then,” Gai started walking towards Techno and his new team's training ground, “You will proceed as normal. Asuma however is supposed to be back tomorrow and so you need to finish up with missions for the young team. Make sure to write a report for Asuma telling him about young Ino and Chouji’s new ambitions.”

Techno nodded but he wasn't really listening. He carefully pocketed the scroll before holding out another to Gai.

He looked at it confused, “What is this, my youthful Ren?”

“A summoner scroll.”

Gai nodded, “For an emergency?”

Techno hummed, “If anything happens I will send Theseus over.”

Sensei sighed but agreed with his decision.

The rest of the day was painfully slow. He spent it writing the report for Asuma and the mission centre. He also helped his mother in counting money and expenses for the month.

The next day was slow, with him turning over his reports and saying goodbye to his little team. Chouji cried and hugged him (Not bad...kinda nice) Ino thanked him and told him about her new teacher—Kurenai Yuhi. Shikamaru simply nodded to him and agreed to continued to teach Chouji Go and even get Ino involved.

It was strangely emotional, but the rest of the day was restless waiting. With no practice and no missions, he had little to do. He shined his axes and packed and repacked, told Theseus about what was to happen, and even trained with Chat. Attempting to use them to fight was awful but interesting.

The night dragged, as time ticked down.

He stood at the gate with his bag and axes on his back. He stared into the empty black wilderness. If he ran the whole way he would arrive barely in time for the fight. He doubted he could run over the water, so he would be slowed by taking a boat. But perhaps...

"Five," Chat hissed.

He eyed the gate, ignoring the two Chunin watching him.

"Four," Chat whispered.

The moon reflected off the leaves of the giant trees.

"Three," Chat laughed.

His fingers were painted purple by Ino. He tapped them together.

"Two," Chat growled.

He stepped forward.

"ONE!" Chat screamed.

He darted into the empty, black, night.

Chapter End Notes

I realized Techno has never gone to school, like his character just never went lol
kinda feels accurate tho

Kakashi Four

Chapter Notes

glad people like this so far!
fight should start in two chaps?
next one might be Naruto or just Sakura idk yet

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Kakashi woke to a tense house.

Breakfast was still. Sakura was red-faced and refusing to look up from her plate. Sasuke was glaring at everyone who looked his way, and seemingly snarled when Sakura caught his eye. Tsunami was ignoring them as she got her son and father fed. Naruto had gone to continue practising his tree walking. He had a clone check up on him when he woke up. Naruto was sleeping in the middle of the woods, more than likely exhausted from using too much chakra.

He carefully ignored the table. He trusted Sakura and Sasuke to eventually work out their problems (*it definitely wasn't because he didn't want to talk to them*).

“...Has Naruto eaten anything?” Sakura quietly asked.

Kakashi hummed, picking at his food, “No.”

Sasuke suddenly stood, “I'll take some to him.”

They stared after him as he picked up a bowl and walked away. He kept it tucked close as he left the house. Kakashi called after him, “Me and Sakura will come bring you both lunch, alright?”

He left.

Kakashi turned to Sakura and raised his pale brow, “I thought I told you to make amends?” She stared down, “I said...I got angry.”

Kakashi sighed, “‘To not be cruel back’ I believe is what I said?”

Sakura slouched and her hair covered her face, “I'm sorry. I didn't mean to.” She went quiet before speaking with a weak voice, “Do you think I'm arrogant?”

Kakashi didn't move, as if dealing with a cornered animal, “Everyone can be arrogant.”

“But why do I get to be arrogant? Why can I judge Sasuke and what he went through? Do I have the right to judge?” Her voice broke.

“Because of what he went through?” He asked.

She nodded.

“You are allowed to argue with him, and hate him and be upset with him.” He stated.

She clenched her fist, “But I shouldn't be cruel.”

Kakashi let out a long sigh, “No one should—but I think Sasuke hates being pitied more than hated.”

She shook her head, “I shouldn't have brought up his brother.”

“No,” He watched her, “You shouldn't have. But he shouldn't treat you—or Naruto—as he does.”

“Or you...” She piped up, looking up at him with sad green eyes, “He was mocking you.”

He felt a smile creep up, “You don't have to defend me, I can take the twelve year old.”

She giggled wetly, but a frown crept up, “Am I arrogant?”

Kakashi cocked his head, “Yes. But all children tend to be.”

She flinched, “Oh.”

“No one is better than anyone else,” He nodded, “Sasuke is not better than you. Naruto is not better than him and you are not better than him.”

Sakura sighed and pulled her head up, “I just feel...I just feel like everyone is so dumb and lucky and that I have worked so hard but I'm still looked down on—”

Maa, kids are strange, is this how you felt, sensei? “That is true, but you are not better because you think you've had it harder.”

She groaned, “I know, but people are just...so stupid!”

He chuckled, “Yes they are.”

She went quiet, “I need to apologise to Sasuke and Naruto.”

He interrupted, “I don't think you do.”

“What?” She looked confused.

A plate clinked on the table as he got extras, “You are all children. Kids who are being forced to work together with different power sets and ideas. And though you are sometimes arrogant, so are they. Apologising might not work—because no one is wrong. Instead...you are going to bring them lunch.”

Wide green eyes stared at him, “So I'm not apologising?”

“If you feel like you have to,” He nodded, “Don't go out of your way to apologise. Wait for the right moment to make it up, especially with Sasuke.”

She laughed, “But not Naruto?”

He shook his head, “Nah, that kid likes you too much to not accept one.”

She nodded, “What about Sasuke?”

“What about Sasuke?” He repeated.

“What are...” She went pink, “What are you going to tell him?”

He chuckled, “That will be between us.”

She nodded, still pink, “Okay, sensei.”

“Now, Sakura,” He stood and put their dishes into the sink, “Me and you are going to work on something until lunch.”

She quickly stood and walked with him, “What are we doing?”

“You created a perfect clone?” He confirmed walking outside.

She nodded, “And i'm good with henge.”

“Transportation?”

She shrugged a little, “I'm good but not perfect.”

“Then we will work with that,” He nodded.

Hopefully by lunch time she will be able to go through everything perfect.

“Again.”

Sakura's hands came together.

“Again.”

Sakura vanished and a log appeared.

“*Again.*”

A perfect Kakashi clone appeared.

“Good,” Kakashi nodded to her and his clone.

She groaned and fell to the ground tired and her clone vanished. She was sweating and her hands were shaky from constant chakra use. He crouched next to her.

“Your chakra control is almost flawless,” He praised.

She smiled tired, “Not much of it though.”

He cocked his head and hummed, “Well I didn't have that much when I was your age—I was...I was the best on my team.”

She looked up at him, “You were?”

He nodded, gaze far away, “And now I'm one of the best now. And my chakra use—”

“Is wasteful....” She mumbled.

He gasped, “Are you saying I don't know how to use my chakra well?”

She glared at him, “Yes.”

“Yes well,” His hand came to his covered eye, “I'm afraid I can't do much about it.”

She hummed curiously, “You can't turn it off?”

“No,” He crouched next to her, “It wasn't...put in properly.”

“So it's not functioning correctly?” She asked.

He chuckled sadly, “Never was.”

“Can you get it fixed?” She pressed.

He chuckled, “More than likely not—not unless an Uchiha wants to help.”

“But...” She leaned up, “Oh...nevermind.”

He nodded, “Yes i'm afraid i'm stuck with it.”

She looked up at him, “Are...Do you like having it?”

He said nothing.

She propped herself up, “It's lunch.”

He nodded to her and stood, “You will get some of the lunch from Tsunami and take it to Naruto and Sasuke.”

She nodded, struggling and standing next to him, “Yes, sensei.”

They walked back to the home they were staying at. Passing the people of this town was depressing. They had little money and little hope with Gato here. He thought of Zabuza who

was here on Gato's money. He thought of killing Gato. But he doubted forming an economic collapse was beneficial for these people, at least until they have the bridge up.

A delicate balance.

He opened the door for Sakura. She stumbled past him into the home. Tsunami had kindly put together a small picnic bag for the kids. Sakura put her hand on it only for him to wave it off.

"Go change," He nodded to her sweaty appearance, "Wash off—quickly."

She looked at him, nodded and ran off.

Sakura was back down in only five minutes. Dressed in a black and red dress with her hair in a messy ponytail. She had a black jacket over her and he could see her hands and wounds were wrapped.

"Ready?"

She nodded and grabbed the bag and ran off.

He quickly summoned and cloned, "Go watch over them." His clone saluted and ran after his students.

Kakashi made his way upstairs to go through his small bag. He pulled out a small book he had. It wasn't his normal smut which he doubted Sakura was interested in. He looked through it and nodded.

A small book about healing and battle medics.

It would definitely help her.

Chapter End Notes

how do we feel about cursing?!?

I enjoy it but I'm trying to decide who will be allowed to say it without it coming off edgy lol

Naruto One

Chapter Notes

oooooh new perspective
fun character, Naruto, really easy to write.
he's just a sweet heart

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Naruto wasn't sure what to make of his teammates.

He knew Sasuke, they might have been friends once. He remembered seeing him and wanting to talk and befriend him. He and Sasuke have a connection—they understand each other.

But *Sakura* ?

He has little clue about her—he knows she's pretty and smart and friends with Kiba and Ino...but he hasn't really talked to her. Then they were announced as a team and he didn't know what to make of her even more. She wasn't the quiet, girly girl he thought she was; she was loud and argumentative and determined to be a ninja. She was even willing to work with him without being mean.

And she and Sasuke *hate* each other.

He doesn't get it. He thought it might be him and Sasuke, but Sakura slipped right past and took that spot. But they hate each other in a way he and Sasuke never could! He tries to keep them happy and to like one another. He tries to get Sakura to work with Sasuke, he butts in between their glares, and he tries to get Sasuke to talk to her and bond. Nothing has worked and he thinks he only made it worse.

He peeked over at Sasuke, who was sitting on a branch, “Why do you hate Sakura?”

Sasuke turned to him with a scoff, “What?”

“You and Sakura hate each other,” He whined, “Why?”

Sasuke stared at him before looking away quickly, “You wouldn't get it.”

“Try me!” He challenged. He swung his foot over and straddled his branch.

Sasuke scoffed again, “She's...annoying and frustrating.”

“Yeah, but so are you, so why do you hate her?” Naruto asked.

Sasuke glared at him, “Why do you care?”

“Because my teammates shouldn't hate each other! We are a team!” Naruto argued, “And Sakura’s really cool so you should be nicer to her.”

Sasuke sat up, “Sakura—I'm just as mean as she is to me.”

Naruto blinked, “Are you saying she’s mean to you?”

“Yes,” Sasuke agreed as he attempted to run up the tree again.

“But you are mean to her—and I know if you weren't so mean she would be nicer.”

Sasuke rolled his eyes, “Just run up the tree, you idiot.”

“Hey!” He ran up after him, attempting to keep focus, “Be nicer to Sakura-chan!” He fell back down to his branch.

Sasuke smirked down at him from his higher branch, “You should focus on our task and not *‘Sakura-chan.’*”

Naruto called up to him, “If you were nicer to Sakura, she might help you!”

“‘Help me’? I don't need help—I'm higher up than you!” Sasuke yelled back.

“Yeah,” He swung his feet back-and-forth, “But she already beat us— *and* is getting private training from Kakashi sensei. So she's definitely already won.”

He could hear Sasuke falter, “So? I can still beat you.”

Naruto grinned, before attempting to run up the tree again, “Then you and Sakura would have to work together to help me!”

“I'm not working with Sakura!” Sasuke finally snapped.

Naruto kept his steps steady up the tree, “You have to! We are a team—team seven!”

Sasuke fell from his spot on the tree and landed on the same level as him, “That’s not important, she needs all the help she can get.”

“Are you jealous?” Naruto teased.

“Idiot!” Sasuke called.

Naruto laughed, “You shouldn't be! Sakura would happily tell us what she's learning.”

Sasuke tried again to go up the tree, “It doesn't matter—we will catch up soon enough.”

“‘We’ huh?” Naruto asked jokingly, “Y’know we kicked butt when we fought Zabuza!”

“So?” Sasuke grunted, stopping on his tree.

“We work great together!” He said. He went quiet, focusing on getting close to the top.

“Sure,” Sasuke exhaled, “And?”

Naruto cheered from his new spot. Sasuke looked up to see him now. Naruto yelled down, “You need to talk to Sakura!”

Sasuke said nothing.

“We need to be a team again! If we do fight Zabuza and his...” *His mind shot to the boy he met earlier this morning,* “We can't fight them if we are fighting!”

“We will be fine, idiot.” Sasuke scaled his way up.

“We were fine until yesterday,” Naruto said sadly, “What did you say?”

“Stop blaming me!” Sasuke yelled, “Why do you think I did something?!”

Naruto blinked, “What did Sakura-chan say?”

Sasuke said nothing, again.

“You can't just say that and not tell me!” Naruto pressured.

“She was...apologising,” Sasuke sighed.

“Did you say sorry back?”

Sasuke went quiet, “We...we didn't get that far.”

“Because you started arguing,” Naruto realised.

“Yes,” Sasuke ground out between clenched teeth.

Naruto thought about it, “Next time you guys talk, I'm going to make sure I'm there.”

Sasuke seemed to laugh before pushing it away, “Sure, you can stand between us while we threaten each other.”

“Sure!” Naruto laughed, “I'd love to!”

“Love to what?” A loud feminine voice yelled.

They looked down at the forest floor. Sakura stood in a nice dress looking up at them. She was holding a basket.

“Hey Sakura-chan!” Naruto cheered.

“Hi Naruto!” She yelled back, “You guys got pretty high up!”

Naruto smiled, “Yeah! We should reach the top soon!”

She smiled prettily and he blushed slightly, “That's great! I have lunch for you and... Sasuke!” She stumbled in her sentence.

“Oh! Cool!” He yelled, turning to Sasuke. Sasuke was glaring up at the top, ignoring Sakura’s presence.

Sakura looked up at them, “I'm going to run up to you guys!”

“Oh! You don't have...” He trailed off watching her run with no problems straight up the massive tree.

She plopped right next to him with a grin. She wasn't even out of breath, “Man you guys are high up here!”

“U-uh yeah!” Naruto nervously laughed, “You did that really easily.”

She shrugged her slim shoulders, “Kakashi sensei has me practising.”

“Cool,” He nodded, looking over at Sasuke, “Sasuke! Sakura brought us lunch!”

Sasuke simply grunted and attempted to run up the tree again.

Naruto scowled, “Don't be rude! You need food!”

“It's okay,” Sakura cut in, “I will save him some for later.”

Naruto felt suspicious, “Why are you being so nice to Sasuke?”

She looked embarrassed, “Kakahsi sensei told me I need to fix it.”

“Oh,” He nodded, “I have to be here—in between you guys.”

She looked confused, “I'm not going to fight him.”

“Not with me inbetween you guys!” He laughed.

She went pink, “Yeah, but I would never hurt either one of you.”

Naruto felt warm in his chest, “Thank Sakura-chan.”

She smiled at him, “Of course—you are my teammate.”

He smiled to himself.

Sasuke had refused to eat until Sakura-chan left. After she left, he ravenously ate through his bread and soup. He guzzled the water and sat down to rest. Naruto laughed at him, before using his newfound energy to continue practising.

Naruto and Sakura had talked through lunch. He asked her about what she was learning with Kakashi sensei. She explained he was helping her perfect her skills she already had—he wasn't really teaching her anything new. She asked how they were doing, and he explained that he had gotten better but couldn't hold it for long. She said that was normal and he just should practise.

She left soon after that.

The sun was starting to set now. Naruto was so close to the top, the tree was starting to bend under his weight now. Sasuke had caught up pretty quickly, he was only slightly behind.

Naruto stared up at the top of the tree. He licked his lips feeling suddenly nervous, “Hey Sasuke!”

A quiet ragged voice called out, “What?”

“You think we will be fine fighting Zabuza?” He asked.

Sasuke’s head appeared behind the leaves, “What, idiot?”

“Do you think Kakashi sensei can actually fight Zabuza and the not-Tracker-nin? Or…”

“Yes.” Sasuke stated with certainty.

“How are you so sure?” He asked.

“How are you not?” Sasuke snarked back, “Normally you are the optimistic one.”

“Well yeah,” Nartuo cocked his head, “But…Kakashi sensei almost died last time.”

“That's because he was caught off guard,” Sasuke grunted pulling himself up higher.

Naruto hugged his tree, “Sasuke, promise you will actually talk to Sakura.”

“What?” Sasuke asked.

“Tonight or tomorrow,” He continued, “I don't care—I just don't want to fight Zabuza while my teammates are fighting.”

Sasuke scoffed, “Naruto—”

“Please?” He called, his blue eyes sad in the darkening sky.

It was silent, “Fine—tomorrow.”

Naruto smiled, “Good, then we can all fight like an actual team and you and Sakura won't hate each other anymore.”

Sasuke sat across from him.

Naruto looked over at him, “Wanna race to the top?”

Sasuke blinked dark tired eyes at him, “Yes.”

“Okay,” Naruto got ready, standing and putting his legs under him, “Ready, set...”

Sasuke waited.

“Go!”

They shot up with neither focusing on how much chakra they were using. He could feel the tree shake under him with the force. He dove for it.

“Got it!

“Done!”

They looked over at each other. They were both holding onto the top of their trees.

“My tree is taller,” Naruto stated.

Sasuke glared at him, “That doesn't mean anything.”

Naruto sighed, “I'm hungry, wanna go back?”

Sasuke smirked, “Yes.”

They both slid down their massive trees to the ground. Naruto collapsed against his tree for a second. He looked over to see Sasuke almost passed out on his tree. Naruto pushed himself up, struggling. He stumbled his way over to his teammate before crouching and wrapping his arm around his shoulders.

“C'mon Sasuke,” He sighed.

They struggled, hobbling and tripping over each other all the way back. The house was alight and smelled of good food and he could hear talking.

He walked up and kicked the door open making sure to not drop Sasuke.

Sakura and Kakashi sensei looked up at him from the table. Terrifying Tsunami simply glanced up, the bridge builder gaped at them and Inari refused to look up.

“We did it...we got all the way to the top.”

Chapter End Notes

everyone seems chill with cursing so that's cool, so a small fuck might slip in next chap.

Kakashi Five

Chapter Notes

<3 here we go, this chap ends with Zabuzza fight starting.

Im so happy everyone is enjoying this. I really am sorry some of these chapters take so long, but I am not always able to write.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Kakashi was going to talk to Sasuke.

He had been avoiding it, not wanting to interact with the Uchiha. He saw his reaction to his Sharingan and he did not want to explain *shit* to this angry kid. But now his team needed some encouragement to get along and he's already talked to Sakura. Naruto was fine, ironically, he was a ball of sunshine attempting to make his friends friends. And tonight after they came back from tree walking he will talk to Sasuke and get him to talk and resolve his issues (*And hopefully avoid any talk about the other Uchiha*).

He eyed Sakura after she came back, and she depressingly told him that Sasuke ignored her the whole time. He had sighed and promised he would talk to Sasuke and get him to at least hear her out and vice versa. After that she stayed on guard duty.

When dinner came and they waited for his boys (*Has he fallen so fast?*) he made sure to tell his hosts there might be some arguments occurring. They begrudgingly said they would let it go. He thanked them and waited for the bomb to blow.

The bomb was blown but not in the way he thought, or who. Inari the eight year old (?) and Naruto blew first. Standing on their chairs and yelling at one another. Sakura and Sasuke sat wide eyed on the sidelines and Kakashi sighed again.

The Hokage just had to give me this team? Why couldn't he just have Ino-Shika-Cho?

Naruto eventually just walked away while Inari cried.

Kakashi sighed, *first Inari than Sasuke*.

He stood nodding to the baffled Sakura and stone-faced Sasuke. Tsunami gave him a long look before nodding. Tazuna did nothing at all.

He sighed again, *Kids suck*.

The talk went well. He told Inari about Naruto and how he also was an orphan and how he also wanted to protect his people. They probably would be getting along in no time.

He left the sad boy alone and went to find his other sad boy.

Sasuke was brushing his teeth. His other teammates were sleeping. Sakura got ready beforehand and Naruto had just passed out still in his clothes.

He stood behind him, "I need to talk to you."

Sasuke looked at him with his black eyes. He spat out his paste, "So do I."

Kakashi turned and didn't check to see if he followed.

He sat down on the rickety balcony. A second later Sasuke sat softly next to him. Kakashi stared up at the starry sky.

Finally he spoke, "You told me your goal was to hunt down Itachi."

His student flinched, "What does this have to do with—?"

"Doing so will not make you happy."

Sasuke stared at him with grief and fury, "What do you know about what will make me happy?"

"It will leave you lost and searching for a purpose," Kakashi ignored his student.

Sasuke glared, "You don't know—"

"You might even end up pushing everyone who cares away. Or refusing to even acknowledge those who care about you." Kakashi continued.

"Why are you lecturing me—"

"But at least you will have Naruto," Kakashi chuckled to himself, "Kids easy to love and he loves fiercely. And considering how you act with him, I can tell you already like him. But..." Sasuke said nothing.

"Sakura is rather hard to love, isn't she? She is intelligent but childish, she is determined but haughty and she hates people who she perceives as better than her or who think they are better than her. So it might not be she's hard to love, but it's hard to love someone who can be so similar to yourself."

"Why do you care?" Sasuke bit out. He was clenching his hand so hard he was almost drawing blood.

"You are *my* team, and my students, and I..." He stumbled for a moment, "I don't want my team to hate or lack respect for each other."

Sasuke sneered, “I don't lack respect—”

“You call me Kakashi.” Is all he said.

He stared at him, “So?”

Kakashi chuckled darkly, “I am not stupid—neither are you but you like to act like it sometimes.”

Sasuke went slightly red, “I am not stupid—”

“Stop acting like it then,” He said lightly, almost jokingly, “You are smart and you know others are as well. You are arrogant if you think I don't see how you are acting.”

Sasuke said nothing and only glared at him.

“Talk to Sakura. Don't apologise if you don't mean it, but she feels bad and you are clearly frustrated. Talk or spar or yell or write notes, but you need better communication skills and you can't keep using Naruto to do it.”

Kakashi sighed, “And I am not favouring Sakura over any of you, I know her brother (*I also knew yours*) and I know what skills she has and needs and right now you and Naruto will work on one thing and she will work on another.”

Sasuke's body slowly untensed and he stared at the ground, “I told Naruto I would talk to her tomorrow.”

Kakashi hummed, “That's good.”

Sasuke looked up at him, “Why do you have a Sharingan?”

He tensed slightly, “Oh this old thing—It was a gift.”

“The Uchiha do not give their eyes as *gifts*,” He strained.

“This one did,” He stated simply, “Thinking back it might be more of a curse than a gift.”

“It tires you out,” Sasuke concluded, “Will that happen..?”

Kakashi shook his silver head, “No—you are a born Uchiha, you were made to have this. I was not.”

“Can you turn it off?” Sasuke pressed

Kakashi sighed, *an integration was imminent it seemed*, “No, i received it when it was on and I can't turn it off.”

Sasuke leaned over slightly, “You have all the tomoe?”

“Yes,” He nodded, “I have all of them.”

Sasuke went almost perfectly still, “Do you...do you have the...other state?”

Kakashi furrowed his brow confused, ““Other state—?” He froze entirely, “The Mangekyo.”

Sasuke nodded quickly, “Do you have it?”

Kakashi's voice was monotone, “A curse. Like I said.”

“You do,” Sasuke summarised, “Can you use the genjutsu?”

Kakashi sighed, “Sasuke, I really don't want to talk about this.”

“One more question!” He threw in, Sasuke pointed at his eye, “One more question.”

Kakashi waited.

“Do I have to...do I have to kill someone I love to get it?” He sounded so small.

Kakashi was completely still, putting together what this boy just asked him, “Did Itachi tell you that?”

“You said one question,” Sasuke sounded desperate.

“*No* .” Kakashi pressed. He put his hand on his student's black hair, “You don't have to kill anyone—especially someone you love, for Itachi.”

“But to get the eye...” Sasuke refused to look at him, “Isn't that how you got it?”

Kakashi sighed deeply, he forgets how young his students can be, “If I could—I would get rid of it and keep my...friend. I never wanted it.”

Sasuke said nothing and only curled into a ball.

Kakashi decided he would do something he almost never does. He leaned over to his student and hugged him.

It was a stiff and uncomfortable hug but he kept his arm around his student. He let him grasp onto him and cry . Finally he pulled back slightly, he patted Sasuke on the head.

“You do not need to listen to Itachi,” He spoke almost softly, “You have plenty of people who would be happy to keep you here.”

Sasuke refused to look at him, “Thanks, sensei.”

Kaskhi smiled to himself, “Sometimes ninja need to cry, especially cute little genin.”

Sasuke red-faced scoffed, “Ninja shouldn't cry, it makes them look weak.”

Kakashi was brought back, “No, it doesn't. It's human.”

Sasuke said nothing.

“Alright,” He stood and held out his hand to him, “Time for bed. You have had a long night.”

Sasuke grimaced and took his hand. They walked back to the room and he waited for Sasuke to sit before claiming his own spot.

His student moved around before getting comfortable and falling asleep.

The Copy-nin smiled, *How was that Obito?*

The next morning was filled with a calmness. Kakashi had awoken right as the sun was starting to rise. All of his students were still sleeping. He sat up with a groan. His hair was even worse than normal and he mechanically put his vest and put together his stuff for the day.

When he walked out the door he immediately knew the day would be a bad one. The sky was lined with an eerie for casting the day in greyness. The water was choppy and rough causing problems for anyone willing to bear it. He clicked his tongue looking around. He hoped these days might be his last, the weather was getting worse and he could feel the humidity.

He made his way to the kitchen. There was a light coming through. He walked down to find Tsunami quietly reading next to the window. He spotted a cup of tea on the counter.

“I heard someone moving upstairs,” She spoke quietly, “I assumed anyone up this earlier would need it.”

He blinked, “Thank you.”

She nodded and continued reading while nursing her own cup.

He picked up the cup and pulled his mask down and took a deep sip. He closed his eyes with a pleased hum. He turned and walked over to her and sat across from the matriarch.

She barely looked up at him, “You can not stay forever.”

“No,” He took another sip, “We will have to leave in about three days if Zabuza never attacks.”

She scoffed slightly, “If he was smart he might wait you out.”

Kakashi chuffed, “That would be the smart thing to do—but in Zabuza’s current position he needs to act quickly so he *will* attack.” He took another sip.

She paused for a moment and tapped her book, “I hope you kill him.”

He stared at her, “Zabuza?”

She nodded completely assured, “He is a horrible symbol of Gato’s power—if you kill him it might make Gato back off.”

Kakashi looked at his cup, “Not many civilians hope for death in their backyard.”

“Not many have to deal with not having enough food for them and their only son,” She ground out.

He blinked at the hardened woman, “Killing him will not solve your problems, and I cannot kill Gato.” He took another sip.

She took her own sip, “I wish someone would.”

He smiled to himself, “Perhaps a rogue will.”

She finally looked up at him and blinked when she saw no mask, but she shook it off quickly, “We are never that lucky.”

He thought of everything they have gone through, “No, we never are.”

She went back to reading and he took another sip.

He hummed, “When the bridge is built, I will send a trader your way.”

She half-smiled, “Please do.”

Kakashi sighed and gazed out the window, looking at the ugly landscape. He clicked his tongue again and pulled out his book.

He heard a quiet laugh and he looked up. Tsunami was trying to hold in a laugh. He cocked his head, “Why are you laughing at me?”

She snorted and made eyes at his book, “‘Makeout Paradise?’ Quite the story.”

He huffed, “It's a valid tale.”

“Never said it wasn't,” she shook her head, “Just didn't seem your style, shinobi-san.”

He took another sip. “Well,” He exaggeratedly looked at her book, “Not all of us can enjoy, *‘A Lady of the Swamp’*.”

She smiled, “A sweet tale of love and journey.”

He nodded to his book, “As is mine!”

Tsunami laughed, “With more ‘large breasts and glistening skin’?”

“Yes,” He said emphatically, “*Far* more.”

Another sip was taken and she smiled, “I have to get Inari up.”

He nodded, took his last sip and pulled his mask up, “I need to get mine up as well.”

Tsunami stood and grabbed both of their cups.

He went up the stairs and went into their room. His students were all still asleep. He went to Sakura first.

She blinked up at him, “What time is it?” Her voice was groggy.

“Sun’s about up,” He told her.

She nodded, green eyes still mostly closed, “I’ll get dressed.”

Kakashi moved to his other two students. Naruto was snoring and deeply asleep. He shook him lightly. Then slightly harder when nothing happened. Still asleep.

He sighed before moving to his other student.

Sasuke looked more tired while asleep, he thought. He shook him slightly and Sasuke shot up and attempted to stab him. Kakashi casually batted it away. He stared at his exhausted student, “Did you sleep at all?”

Sasuke rubbed his eyes harshly, “Enough.”

Kakashi nodded and stood, “Go back to sleep. Stay here, Sakura and I will follow Tazuna and you will stay here and rest after having such a *long* night.”

Sasuke blinked at him, “I need to watch—”

“Sasuke,” He said, “Sleep. I will be there and Sakura will be there and If anything happens you will know.”

Sasuke attempted to stand. Kakashi sighed and pushed him down. Sasuke fell to the floor. “*Sleep.*”

He bit his thumb and summoned a dog.

A *poof* and Pakkun looked up at him, “What’s up, boss?”

“Watch over these two,” He gestured to his two boys, “I will call you if something happens to us. If not, watch over and help them when they get up.”

Pakkun looked at his students, “Got it. Watch the sleeping kids.”

Kakashi snorted and walked out.

His pink student was dressed in a light green over shirt and dark green under shirt and black wide legged pants. She looked up at him while she was eating food next to Inari. Her pink hair was being fixed by Tsunami. He blinked at them.

“She offered,” Sakura said.

He hummed and took his own plate.

Tsunami eventually finished the elaborate do-up she was doing. It was a tall bun with braids wrapped around it. He blinked at the gems that were inner woven.

“Ren packed them,” Sakura’s hand came to her hair, “I didn’t know how to put them in thought.”

He nodded and ate his food with no one seeing his face. After a few minutes Tazuna stumbled into the room, “We need to go.”

Sakura gaped, “Now?”

Tazuna reached down, stole a bite of his eggs and kept walking, “Yep! Now!”

Sakura looked at her food sadly and stood and walked out. Kakashi thanked Tsunami and followed after.

Tazuna made his way quickly to the bridge, shoving past and barreling through the morning rush. They followed him quickly without much issue. The group came to the bridge quickly. Tazuna walked over it and froze, his whole body shaking. He fell back to them, “Wh-what is this?!”

They looked around him, and stared.

The bridge was covered in the bodies of the workers. Blood was leaking down and turning the water red. Kakashi swore and pulled out a senbon and got into position. He heard Sakura do the same and they surrounded Tazuna.

The loose fog that surrounded them thickened. It was so sick this time around he doubted Sakura could see a hand in front of her face. The air was thick with killing intent.

Kakashi used his other hand and found Sakura and he pulled her slightly into his space, “Be careful, it’s just us until I can get Pakkun to bring the boys.”

“Yes,” A deep gravelly voice called out, “It’s just you two you say?”

Neither said anything.

“I’m sorry to keep you waiting Kakashi,” Zabuza chuckled into the air, “I know you were desperate for a round two.”

Kakashi said nothing and he could feel Tazuna and Sakura press closer to him.

“But I still see one brat there, so I guess I’ll have to take care of that.” He chuckled darkly.

Half-a-dozen Zabuza stood in front of them, all ready to swing.

Sakura straightened next to him, he nodded, “Now Sakura!”

They both threw their knives at the Zabuza clones. They all popped and their knives fell to the floor. *Why such weak clones? Is he testing them?*

A loud harsh laugh rang out, and the fog cleared slightly. Two sets of footsteps walked in front of them. “I see you have gotten better.”

He spotted the two, Zabuza in his black and white and the Tracker-nin in traditional ANBU gear. They were clearly watching them.

“Looks like Haku might have some competition,” Zabuza said.

Haku only hummed in that light, soft voice, “Perhaps.”

Kakashi waited.

Chapter End Notes

do we like the emotional scene with Sasuke? I wanted to give them one for what happens later and I thought this was as good as ever.

Also! yeah, Sasuke isn't there! Oh no! someone might have to show up and help...

Sakura Eight

Chapter Notes

HERE IT IS!!!

What we all have been waiting for!

The FIGHT!

ughh warning tho- fight gets kinda bloody so

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Sakura was choking.

The thick fog was coating her skin and making her sweat. The killing intent was palpable, and overwhelming. The bridge felt slippery coated in water and blood. She pressed closer to her Sensei. Tazuna was here as well, but she doubted they would go for him if they could get into a fight first.

Zabuza stood in front of them. Next to him, Haku, small and docile in body language. Zabuza's giant sword was dripping from the humidity.

"I see you have decided to show yourself," Kakashi called out.

Zabuza narrowed his eyes, "Wouldn't miss a chance for a rematch."

"Zabuza," Haku cut in, "The other two are missing."

He leaned on his sword, "Yes—this won't be much of a challenge it seems."

Sakura swallowed.

"I'm afraid you will have to get through me first and foremost." Kakashi blocked their view of her.

Zabuza seemed to like the challenge, "Won't be much of a fight as I now know your secrets."

"Oh," Kakashi-sensei asked coyly, "And what are they?"

"He is wasting time," Haku proclaimed quietly, "Perhaps waiting for the other two to show up?"

Zabuza laughed, "Doesn't matter how much time he wastes. I will fight him and you take out the little girl."

Haku nodded, "Of course, Zabuza."

They stepped forward, and moved. They appeared in front of her, but before the knife they were holding could touch her it was blocked with one hand by Kakashi. Haku looked up at her tall Sensei as they strained against each other. She stood shocked.

Haku cocked their head, “I meant for the girl.”

Kakashi huffed, “And yet here I am.”

Her eyes adjusted, “Sensei!”

Zabuza rushed at her teacher, his sword primed to swing through him. Kakashi bent backwards to dodge while pushing Haku away with his superior strength. Zabuza slashed to the side and Kakashi blocked with a kunai knife holding him off. They trembled against one another. She watched Haku as they fixed their position and stepped back.

“We only want the bridge builder,” They stated plainly.

Kakashi watched Zabuza with deadly intent, “Yes—I can see that.”

Zabuza laughed roughly, “I didn't expect you to be so protective guess we'll just have to separate you two.”

Sakura caught on quickly and pulled her arms tight just in time to block a slash by Haku. She grunted and pushed forward.

“Sakura!” Sensei yelled, “Be careful! They are far better than you! Just stall them!”

Zabuza laughed and she could hear more sounds of battle between the two jounin, ““Far better?” Quite the praise from one of the Leaf’s most notorious fighters!”

She took in the information and threw her senbon and blocked another hit with her kunai.

Haku watched her from behind their mask, “I do not want to hurt you. Give up and allow Zabuza to trap your Sensei. This could all be over quickly.”

She felt a snarl rise to her face, *How dare they?* “No!” Sakura threw her leg up and kicked Haku back and she threw her knife at their neck.

They caught it and readjusted themselves, “Then we will have to debilitate you both.”

“Sakura!” Her Sensei yelled.

Her eyes widened and watched as her opponent went through *one-handed* signs.

“A Thousand Needles of Death,” They said casually.

The water on the bridge rose into the air and morphed into needles. Sakura went through strategies quickly before preparing herself. She dove over the bridge and attached her feet to the side as water needles flew past her downwards. She ran back up and launched her knives at the hesitating Haku.

They jumped away from each one, pushing them further and further from her.

She ran at them and put her hands together. A clone of herself appeared and fell back. She threw more knives which they dodged.

She glanced at her clone. They were guarding Tazuna now, ready to retreat if anything happened. She turned to her Sensei, he was fighting basic taijutsu with Zabuza. No giant water dragons. She noted his lack of Sharingan, it was still covered.

She gasped suddenly, Haku stood in front of her, knife piercing her arm. Blood ran down, and her nice green shirt was sliced.

Haku's compassionate voice cut in, "Give up, I do not want to hurt you anymore than this."

Sakura felt her eyes water, but she held them back. Grinding her teeth together, she knocked them away with her other arm and jumped away.

Her landing was roughing and she winced. She pulled her shirt up to see the wound. A long slice was taken out of her right arm, right below the shoulder. She tore the rest of the sleeve off and wrapped it around the wound. She turned back to her opponent.

Haku was watching her curiously, "Your Sensei is right, you are not as strong as I am nor as fast. But I fear this will turn into a long fight."

A loud '*cling*' rang out and they turned to the duelling jounin. Kakashi had lightly pinned Zabuza against the hard ground and Kakashi himself.

Sakura ran at her opponent while they were distracted. She pulled more knives out and threw them ignoring the sharp pain in her arm.

Haku turned sharply and dodged at the last minute—showing she took them off guard. They threw back and she dodged.

Then she threw and they dodged.

Then again.

And again.

And *again*.

They went in circles throwing and dodging, but never getting close and never connecting. Sakura was breathing rather hard, while Haku showed now signs of exhaustion. *They are going to wait me out*, she thought, *let me tire myself out and then help Zabuza fight Sensei*.

The cycle needed to break.

But she wouldn't be the one to do it.

"Haku!" Zabuza yelled from his fight, "End them now and come help me!"

A loud grunt and Zabuza was skidding from his fight, Kakashi appeared over him and pressed his legs against his chest and brought his knife down. Zabuza dodged and bucked Sensei off and they continued their fight.

Sakura realised something watching them, *Kakashi-sensei is the far better fighter*. No matter how good Zabuza was, Sensei was clearly better. But Zabuza was keeping him distracted which meant he was just trying to hold him back. *From what?*

Green eyes looked at Haku, *to allow Haku to take out Tazuna?*

“You are very observant,” Haku said casually, “But I am afraid I need to end this now. I am sorry it has come to this.”

Their hands came together.

“Secret jutsu—!”

A loud pitchy sound screeched behind her. She turned quickly to see a massive ice pillar forming from the bridge.

She gasped and made a split decision.

She dove off the bridge.

The massive bridge gave her time to prepare her for the icy shock of the water. It was rough and pounding. She gathered her chakra and stood.

She looked straight up and clutched her arm.

A wall of ice mirrors was surrounding where she once stood.

“Crystal Ice Mirrors!”

Sakura ran under the bridge balancing on the terrible waves. She heard the loud yelling from up above.

“—go get her then!” Zabuza screamed out.

Sakura was soaked to the bone and she doubted she had much longer left, especially with her clone still watching Tazuna. She shook from the cold.

The air around her suddenly dropped in temperature and she ran to the pillars holding the bridge. She heard the sound of water being hit and she started her climb up.

“Unexpected,” Haku called out from the otherside of the under bridge.

She grinned with her blue lips, “No one ever expects the retreat.”

“Running away allowed you to escape my mirrors. But it will not allow you to escape this,” Haku held up their hands. She watched as bubbles came from the water and formed into

needles once again. They flew at her quickly. She ran up the pillar, dodging and diving from the needles. She made it to the ceiling before throwing her own weapons. They flew quickly with the help of gravity and Haku had to swiftly dodge.

Except one, Haku missed it and it sliced through their side. It exposed pale skin, and a thin cut appeared. Haku looked up at her seemingly shocked, “Not many people can hit me.”

She was tired and cold but still pleased, “I’m glad—at least both of us are wounded.”

Haku sighed, “I will not underestimate you again, but this fight must end.”

Sakura braced herself.

Haku vanished and reappeared next to her on the roof of the bottom of the bridge. They grabbed her around her collar and reappeared on top of the bridge.

She rolled from the impact, crying out as her weight pressed against her cut.

Sakura pulled herself up with shaky arms. Her body was tired but she couldn't stop until Kakashi-sensei won or the boys showed up.

A loud slice and her feet felt numb. She looked back.

Her foot was surrounded with ice and was unmovable. She stared at her foot with shock and her mouth parted.

Pulling did nothing. She was forced to lay back down on her stomach as her arms could no longer keep her up.

“I doubt you will escape this,” Haku spoke above her, “You are far too weak now. And It would take some considerable strength to shatter it.”

Sakura could feel a sob crawl up as she laid helpless, she banged on the ground and tried to pull on her leg as hard as possible.

“It will be okay,” Haku said calmly, “You fought well for a genin, your Sensei will be proud.”

She glared at him through pink hair, “It doesn't matter—I failed.”

Haku went quiet, “You did well.” Then they were walking away from her.

She grit her teeth and looked for something— *anything*— to get her out. She was stuck watching as Haku approached her Sensei and his ongoing battle with Zabuza. She desperately searched for her clone. Only to see that it has already popped. Her breathing quickened in her panic and she looked at the ice covering her foot.

It had surrounded up to her ankle and was attached to the rocky bridge. She looked for knives only to find she was out. She clenched her fist and tears fell from her green eyes.

“Damnit!” She hit the ground as hard as possible, “Damnit, damnit!”

The ground cracked slightly under her palms and she stared at it. Her pink head shot up to see her Sensei now fighting two on one.

She looked at the ice, *considerable strength to break it, huh?*

Her pale cold skin stretched over her bone as she clenched her fists. She pushed herself up to her knees with a wince. She turned around and mentally prepared herself for the pain she would go through.

“Ahh!” Her fist came down on the block of ice. It fractured where she impacted it. But the immediate pain shot her left hand. She pushed past the blood that had formed on her knuckles and brought her fist down again.

Never give up...

She yelped and doubled over, holding her shaking fist close to her body. Her left hand was bloody and red, the knuckle seemed to have split. She grit her teeth and tore a piece of cloth off and wrapped her hand.

Don't back down...

The ice had splintered deeper and a part had chipped off. She brought her fist down again. It cracked. And again. A part of it fell away. Finally she brought her fist down and it split right down the middle, a loud shatter like noise echoed.

She, trembling, pulled her foot out of the ice. Shoving away the piece and kicking away others. She shakily got to her feet.

Sakura attempted to walk forward only to double over. Her foot was lacking circulation. She took a deep breath and started to tap it on the ground. She looked up at the fight again. Kakashi was doing well, keeping Haku and Zabuza strictly in taijutsu where he was clearly superior; they hadn't noticed her yet.

The feeling in her foot slowly came back and she thought about what to do. She was free, *now what?!* She was still too weak to use her chakra and she was beaten up and could barely feel her left hand.

She looked around. On the ground were some of her weapons, she limped her way to them and grabbed them with her right hand.

She prepared her aim and waited for an opening.

Haku or Zabuza?

She saw her opening. With as much strength as she could muster she threw her knives as hard as possible.

Her knees buckled under her almost immediately and she found herself having to keep her feet under her.

A loud yell rang out and she looked up.

Two knives had pierced through Zabuza's arm. They struck right into his muscles and joints. His arm quickly fell limp.

They all followed the path of the knives to her—who was standing on trembling knees and more than likely had a broken hand and a sliced arm. Zabuza's face twisted into a snarl and turned to Haku, "I thought you took care of her!"

She could feel Haku's bafflement, "I did." Their faces turned towards where they had held her. They took in the shattered and bloody ice and her hand. "Seems like she was far stronger than I anticipated."

Haku suddenly went flying and Zabuza was pressed to the ground. Kakashi was on top of him holding his arms back. Kakashi looked at her with great shock, "Sakura..."

"WE HAVE ARRIVED!"

They whipped their heads around to see Naruto and Sasuke standing on the bridge. Unharméd and fresh faced.

She collapsed.

Her body was on fire shaking. She blinked and Sasuke stood above her. He looked over her with shock and terror. Suddenly he put his hands together and pulled her close enough to hold him.

Her body slowly started to warm up as steam came off her. He looked at her with what looked like fear, "Anywhere else?"

She shook her head, "M-My hand and arm."

He nodded and looked up at the fight. Naruto had engaged with Haku and Kakashi continued to fight Zabuza.

Sakura felt much better as she warmed up but the cold brought the eye-watering pain from her hand. "Thank you," She gasped out.

Sasuke hummed, "What happened?"

"Haku—the Tracker-nin," she shook, "Careful they have a kekkei genkai, some ice jutsu, they're fast too."

Sasuke nodded, "Shit—I need to help Naruto. He's struggling. Are you good?"

She nodded.

He nodded back to go help their teammate.

Sakura pulled herself up onto her butt and sat and stared at the fight. Haku and Naruto were seemingly taking it easy on each other while Sasuke attacked with absolute viciousness.

Kakashi was practically playing with Zabuza now. His attacks were slow and mocking. Zabuza couldn't do much damage against Kakashi-sensei with only one arm and a two-handed sword.

Haku seemed to stiffen before vanishing and reappearing next to Zabuza. They began to go through the hand motions and her eyes widened, "KAKASHI-SENSEI! LOOK OUT"

Ice had begun to form around them, Sasuke and Naruto ran to catch up but found themselves too slow. Kakashi attempted to substitute only to find himself tackled to the ground by Zabuza.

She attempted to run but quickly fell and watched in horror as Haku's Crystal Ice Mirror Jutsu surrounded her Sensei.

Naruto and Sasuke ran up to it and attempted to break it only to come to the painful realisation of how strong it was.

She bent down to look under the mirrors. Kakashi and Zabuza were grappling and suddenly needles flew through the air and pricked both of them.

Zabuza threw Kakashi off and stepped away. They seemed to speak and Zabuza backed up. Her eyes widened when she saw Zabuza leave the dome-like structure. Kakashi was now trapped in the middle of the mirrors and they were trapped with Zabuza.

Zabuza turned to the genin with a blood-thirsty grin. Sakura gulped and attempted to scoot back.

Sasuke and Naruto backed up slightly, staring at the one armed Missing-nin with trepidation. He ran for them.

He swung his massive sword with one hand for the boys.

It collided with Naruto's knives while Sasuke ducked and attacked Zabuza's midsection. He blocked it and used his strength to push Naruto away and kick Sasuke back.

They fought round and round. Sasuke and Naruto fully energised using fantastic teamwork. Zabuza through pure spite and overwhelming hatred fighting to kill but always held back by his arm. The fight continued.

She kept a close eye on Kakashi-sensei. He was dodging the blurry needles with ease. She could see him rapidly going through hand signs. Fire would randomly burst before rapidly dousing itself. He went through tons of jutsu before working through some earth jutsu. She watched in awe as he went through at least twenty jutsu. It looked like Haku was barely attacking, just holding Kakashi and never showing themselves.

A loud clash again and her attention was taken by Zabuza attacking Sasuke. Naruto was thrown back and it was just him fighting Zabuza. He fought one on one with a jounin. He

seemed to have faltered for a second only to come back with a vengeance. She watched confused as his skill seemed to have doubled and he was able to at least match pace with Zabuzza.

He turned for a second and she saw it, bloody red eyes. His black eyes were lit up with Sharingan as he battled. She watched in awe and felt almost hopeful.

Until Zabuzza turned and saw her.

She could see the grin form on his face as he took in her helpless self. She blinked rapidly pushing to her feet and attempting to hobble away while clutching her hand to her chest. Her heart beat like a rabbit as she tried to run.

He appeared in front of her, “Gotcha.”

She closed her eyes and held up her right hand. A sword swung down on her head. It never connected. Zabuzza proclaimed loudly, “What the—?”

“You shouldn't have even tried.”

She opened her eyes and looked up.

A fast swing and the sword went flying up and away. A grunt and Zabuzza was hit backwards to the side where an axe flew to his face and a body kicked him off the bridge.

Her chest was tight and her jaw dropped.

“Ren?!”

He stood in front of her dressed in black and red. Axe's in hand, pink hair pulled up. Not a speck out of place. He looked down on her with deep red eyes.

“You look horrible,” He said dryly.

She laughed wetly, “You look fantastic.”

He bent down and took in her. He reached out and lightly picked up her bloodied and bruised hand. She winced as he manipulated her digits.

He hummed, “More than likely broken—knuckles are completely shattered.”

She smiled, “Yeha.”

Ren looked at her with his dark eyes, “Looks like I arrived just in time.”

“Looks like,” She replied thickly.

He sighed heavily, “I—”

“Sakura!”

A bright yellow blur impacted her and she was swallowed by orange. She pulled back to look at Naruto. Sasuke had pulled a knife on Ren and was standing over them. She stood roughly and pushed them away, “No! Leave Ren alone!” She stumbled up to him and hugged him tightly.

He held her close and she briefly closed her eyes, “He's my brother—he came to help.”

They went quiet before Naruto let out a loud cheer. Ren lightly pulled away, “Where is Kakashi-sensei?”

They all turned to the ice dome, “He's in there—fighting Haku.”

He narrowed his eyes, “Okay, stay alert if that guy comes back. I'll get Kakashi out.”

“You'll get Kakashi out?” Sasuke narrowed his eyes at him, “Just like that?”

Ren looked at him blankly, “Yes.” He walked away to the dome. They watched him curious if he would actually do it. Sakura sagged and leaned on Naruto.

Ren came up to it and lightly pressed his hand against the ice. Then fell back. He looked up and got into position.

Sasuke blinked, “Wait, is he just going to—”

Ren swung his fist *hard*. The mirror shattered as it went into it. She could see the skin on his hand break. Kakashi used this moment instantly, Body Flickering outside next to Ren.

They both backed up and nodded to one another.

Haku appeared in the collapsing dome looking around in what was clearly confusion. They looked at them, “Who are you?”

Ren cocked a brow, “Who are you?”

Haku looked at Kakashi then at them, “Where is Zabuza?”

“There!” A large figure ran at them and she and Naruto were sent flying. She landed on her back and looked over when she heard the loud chirp-like noise. She could see Ren grab Haku before they even had the chance to run past him.

Kakashi appeared in bright flashing lights and in ear piercing screams. His hand was glowing and pulsing with lightning chakra.

The world seemed to flicker for a moment and her eyes refocused to a new scene in front of her.

Kakashi-sensei's *hand* was sticking through Zabuza's shoulder. She could see his fingers on the other side, dripping with blood. It was through his unhurt arm leaving the brutal man completely defenceless. Her green eyes watched everything. Sasuke was in front of Zabuza

almost like he's been used to covering his vital regions. Sasuke was staring up at Sensei with awe but Sensei only had eyes for Zabuza.

“ZABUZA!” Haku’s voice came out, finally breaking the almost monotone way they'd been speaking.

Ren held Haku tight to his chest keeping both hands restricted from using jutsu. Ren was watching the scene with a dispassionate gleam in his eyes as if he couldn't be bothered.

Kakashi pulled his hand out wetly. Zabuza slumped and fell to the ground.

Haku pulled more erratically at Ren attempting to get to his teacher.

They all stood still for a moment. Looking at one another, taking in how wrecked everyone is, bloodied and exhausted, bruised and battered, emotionally scarred. No one (*except Ren*) came out looking well. Sakura looked around, “Is-is that it? Is it over?”

A loud footstep hit the ground. They all turned.

A short man in an expensive looking suit looked over them with a grin behind his sunglasses. He tapped his cane against the ground, “Oh! They really beat you this time, huh Zabuza?”

His brown fuzzy stood in all directions, “I gotta say...I'm disappointed.” Suddenly hundreds of footsteps were heard. Over thirty thugs stood behind him, all grinning and bloodthirsty.

She furrowed her brow looking at them, *none of them are ninja. They are all civilian criminals.*

Zabuza’s broken voice called out, “Gato, what is this?”

Gato smirked, “There has been a change in plans.” The thugs behind jeered loudly. “And according to the plans...you will die here.”

“What?!” Zabuza growled.

“Yes, I'm afraid you cost a lot of money—as do these thugs. Do you mind killing a few of them before they take you out? I could lighten the load. What do you think, ‘*Demon of the Mist?*’ Though you seem to be more of a wet kitten to me.”

They all laughed obnoxiously.

Zabuza stood slowly, “Kakashi...it seems our fight has ended.”

Kakashi eyed doubtfully, “Just like that?”

“Yes,” Zabuza eyed his former employer, “I have a new target now.”

Kakashi stared at him with an understanding, “Yeah, alright.”

Gato laughed tauntingly, “I mean look at this—you couldn't take any of them down, not even a little girl.”

Sakura glared at them, stumbling over to where Naruto was staring with fear and confusion. She painfully pulled him into a hug. She leaned in, “Thank you.”

He pulled away and blinked his big blue eyes at her, “Uh, yeah! No problem.”

“Is this going to be a fight?” Ren’s monotoned dry voice called out. He was looking right at Kakashi-sensei still holding the struggling Haku, “Do I let this one go?”

“That brat!” Gato cut it, he pointed his cane at Haku, “Nearly broke my arm!” He looked at Ren and smirked, “Hey kid, if you take out that one I'll pay you big time!”

Zabuza walked closer, “Touch them and i'll kill you even slower.”

“Sensei?” Ren called, he held Haku tighter as Zabuza made his way closer, “What do you want?”

“Let them go,” Kakashi said, “It's Gato who’s the problem.”

Ren looked down at Haku blankly before pulling back slowly. He turned to Gato, who dressed more expensively and somehow looked cheaper in comparison. Ren stared at them eerily before turning to look at Zabuza, “You planning on kill’em?”

Zabuza shot a glance at her brother, “Yes—all of them.”

Ren glanced at Kakashi who gave him a nod, “I'll help.”

“Ren?” She gasped.

He looked at her, “Don't worry kid, I'll be fine.”

Zabuza chuckled darkly, “That's one weird kid for you, Kakashi.”

Kakashi-sensei hummed, “Perhaps.”

“Bah!” Gato yelled, “I'm tired of this nonsense.” He turned to his hired goons, “Take care of them.”

Ren turned to Kakashi, “Keep them outta this.”

She glanced at Sasuke and Naruto who were also watching in confusion, “Who outta—?”

She was grabbed and moved and she gasped. The world around her moved quickly and her eyes focused on her surroundings. They were deep in the village, next to some shops and worn down businesses.

“Damnit!” Sasuke yelled beside her.

Naruto looked around confused, “What happened?”

Sakura laid back on the dirty ground and looked up, she felt relaxed and she thought she might be about to pass out, “Their taking out the payed help.”

They turned to her, and Naruto asked, “But why are we here?”

Her body sagged into the ground and her eyes fluttered, “So we don't see them kill everyone there.”

“What—” Her eyes closed, “Hey! Sakura! What are you—”

She trusted Ren to take care of everything.

Chapter End Notes

techno chapter next!

we will see the rest of the battle next chap!

and no one died! Yay!

though Zabuzas arm is kinda useless now...idk doubt he'll be able to swing that sword anymore...what a shame.

Technoblade Nine

Chapter Notes

sword?????

now he has sword, fantastic!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Techno could smell the blood in the air.

Many might say you couldn't smell blood, but he could. It was metal and rust, thick and heavy. He could smell it miles away. *Chat* could sense it eons away.

He had to run across the water. It was choppy and cold and there were no boats to take him into the village. He hoped someone would take him—he has been running for about two days straight. And even if he didn't show it, he was tired and could use the rest.

But the weather was horrible and he had to keep running. Chat was going crazy and his sleepiness was creeping in. If he didn't get to fight *someone*, Chat would riot.

The sounds of battle were up ahead as he ran over the waves. Loud clashes and yelling.

He knew he was behind, the fight had begun earlier than he hoped. A massive bridge was up ahead, he could see blood running down his side and he swallowed thickly. Bodies were on the top of it, multiple dead bodies. He held his breath and ran up the far side of it.

His bright hands, painted and decorated, were stark against the bland environment. They pulled him over the lip onto the bridge.

His red eyes locked onto the scene.

Sakura, bloodied and broken (*In the nice green shirt he found*) holding her arm up against a massive sword raining down on her. Her bright green eyes were shut tightly.

He breathed in, and *moved*.

“You shouldn't have even tried.”

Techno moved in, hands already holding his axe. He swung it up blocking the sword and used his other axe to throw the weapon away and he kicked the cowboy looking shark man away. A small bloodthirsty smile came to his face.

KICK HIS ASS

KILL HIM!!

NO! NOT ZABUZA!

KILL HIM!! HE ALMOST KILLED SAKURA

PINKY!

TECHNOKILL!

BLOOD

BLOOD

He pulled his axe back and threw it at his bandaged face and kicked him off the edge. A loud splash and he turned to look at his little sibling.

She had opened her eyes and was staring at him in complete disbelief.

“Ren?!”

He took her horrible appearance in and swallowed back his anger, “You look horrible.” He said dryly.

She looked like she was about to cry, “You look fantastic.”

He kneeled down in front of her. He looked her over with a quiet fury. His hands almost felt shaky as he reached out to grab her hand. It was busted and bleeding, hastily wrapped. He pulled one of her fingers up, and she winced—he pushed away any desire to comfort her.

Time and place.

He wanted to tear the swordsman apart piece by piece, “More than likely broken—knuckles are completely shattered.”

“Yeah,” She smiled at him and his heart squeezed.

“Looks like I arrived just in time,”

On time?!

She almost died!

This is way worse than last time...

I just want blood!!

Yeah! Blood!

Kill them all!

“Looks like,” She looked more exhausted by the second.

He couldn't help it, "I—"

"Sakura!"

A blond kid (*Oh god please no*) tackled Sakura into a hug. Another emo looking kid with red eyes (*Must be the Uchiha*) got into a defensive position with a knife. He felt amused looking at the pretty boy defending his own sister.

She didn't find it as amusing, "No! Leave Ren alone!" She pulled her broken body over to him and hugged him. He calmed in her grasp, but he could feel her body falling.

"He's my brother—he's here to help." She spoke roughly.

He held her closer. The blond let out a loud cheer and he felt like puking. He pulled away, "Where is Kakashi-sensei?"

The pre-teens are turned to look at a giant floating ice dome. Sakura answered him, "He's in there—fighting Haku."

Ice, huh? Should be easy enough, "Okay, stay alert if that guy comes back. I'll get Kakashi out."

"You'll get Kakashi out?" The Uchiha looked him up and down, "Just like that?"

He stared at him with little expression, "Yes." He left the genin to themselves, coming up to the ice jutsu; he reached out. The ice was mostly chakra. He would need to use some of his chakra to shatter it, he couldn't just use his normal strength.

He pulled back his fist and he could feel his chakra circulate quickly. He swung his fist into it and it shattered *as expected*.

His eyes took in the scene. Kakashi dodged hundreds of needles and attempted to use his catalogue of jutsu's. He narrowed his eyes, he isn't using his Sharingan at all.

Kakashi saw him in a split second and flickered next to him. He took in his tall Sensei with a nod. Another figure appeared. Short with long black hair and a nice outfit. He almost nodded approvingly.

The androgynous person looked at him, "Who are you?"

He felt amused, "Who are you?"

They turned away from him and looked at Sensei, "Where is Zabuza?"

"There!" Kakashi ran towards him. He saw the lightning light up his palm as he went for Zabuza. Sakura and Not-Tommy went flying from him and he felt his face curl into a snarl for a moment. Zabuza grabbed Emo-boy and used him as a human shield in a moment of quick thinking.

But Kakashi was too smart to hit his own student. He shifted his aim for the shoulder instead. It went right through.

Chat decided to rear its ugly head and begin screaming for blood. He rubbed his temples for a moment and blinked out of it. It was fascinating, a move so deadly and powerful. It was, no doubt, a one hit move. He could hear everyone gasp and he quickly grabbed Zabuza's partner.

They barely moved when he grabbed them, but they were freaking out now. He clutched them tighter.

His head was still pounding and his vision was slightly red. He pushed it away—he wouldn't give in until Sakura was gone. She didn't need to see that side of him here.

The small figure in his arms strained hard, "ZABUZA!"

Zabuza fell to the ground once Kakashi's hand was out of his body. Haku pulled harder.

Nothing happened for a moment and Sakura spoke up, "Is-is that it? Is it over?"

Then a tiny angry man showed up.

Gato of Gato's company. A terrible businessman really. He had a monopoly on the area and tons of control but he was letting all of his clientele die or rot. Terrible future. He doesn't even have a good product, he's seen *much* better drugs.

But he brought a couple dozen thugs over. And he wanted Zabuza dead and they were going to fight.

Great.

But he would only fight on one condition.

"Keep them outta this."

Kakashi grabbed his students and flickered them out.

Techno turned to the bloody Zabuza and the fluttering Haku. "Any limitations?"

Zabuza looked at him curiously, "No—will you have any problems killing them?"

Techno snorted, "No."

"Then," Zabuza snarled, "I want Gato."

He could feel Chat settling over him more and more, vision darkening with red and his hands trembled. Bloodlust was setting into him like an old friend.

Gato flinched back looking between the three of them before turning to his thugs, "K-Kill them." He attempted confidence only to falter.

"Is your friend joining us?" Techno asked, eyes locked on his targets.

“I am.” Haku said quietly, “I will defend Zabuza no matter what.”

Alright then.

The paid gangs walked forward seemingly not noticing that they were hilariously outmatched.

“Maa, don't forget me,” Kakashi said, “After all, Ren, someone needs to make sure you don't get killed—I would hate to have to tell Gai.”

Techno could feel dissociation kick in, “Of course.”

Blood for the blood god.

Zabuza rushed in, Haku following close behind him. The man had a *knife in his mouth* . And he was rabid, slashing and stabbing as he ran through. Haku stayed next to him, throwing anyone who got close, defending his partner.

Kakashi looked over at him, his eye still covered, “You ready?”

Techno stared blankly, “Yes.”

Kakashi hummed, “If you're sure.” Kakashi looked at his student, nodding.

Techno felt almost faint from the pressure behind his eyes. It was getting harder to hear. He swallowed and assured himself Kakashi could handle anything. The blood and death rising from Zabuza and Haku was numbing. He closed his eyes for a moment and ran in.

He threw his axe right through the first goon. The instant satisfaction and gratification was exhilarating. He threw another. A man ran at him—he punched him in the throat. *Dead.*

BLOOD FOR THE BLOOD GOD

BLOOD

BLOOD!!

BLOOD FOR THE BLOOD GOD

KILL THEM

KILL ALL OF THEM

He sliced through another with the flick of his wrist. He kicked out ones legs and sliced his throat. The rush was heavy in his lungs—he hadn't done this in *so long*. His hands have never been so steady. Not in this life. This body almost felt like collapsing under the adrenaline Chat was filtering in.

He chopped through another two. Ducking when a shuriken flew past him. He dropped down, taking out multiple from the ground. It was too easy, they had no chakra, no natural defence, no power. He stood and sliced through another.

The power of death was powerful; though he might regret this now, it was addictive. He blinked and another three were dead.

He gripped his axe tightly. He stopped for a moment but ducked and countered. In the corner of his eye he spotted a sword. A massive, two handed, broadsword, sharpened to perfection, Zabuza's weapon that he kicked away. Chat spiked.

TAKE IT!

STEAL THE SWORD!

MORE BLOOD!

BLOOD

THE EXECUTIONER'S BLADE!

BLOOD SWORD

KUBIKIRIBOCHO!

He grabbed it, unsure when he made his way over. It was heavy but not too much. There was a dent from where he hit it, making the solid silver and black gleam.

Someone ran at him with a cleaver. He held the blade tightly and swung it at their neck. They fell to the floor heavily. He looked over the blade again, the dent was fixing itself. He hummed with a small smile.

He ran back into the thinning crowd with the blade that was taller than him. A bloody hour along the bridge lapsed. Consisting of him blacking out from the overwhelming noise of Chat and death, or barely conscious and methodical.

The last man stood attempting to flee only for his head to be taken off by Techno. His breathing was fast and his pupils must be heavily dilated. Chat was still racing through his head and he found himself attempting to find another person to fight.

He spotted Zabuza and Haku and he gripped the blade tighter. He swallowed and took a step toward them. Hands grabbed his shoulders and he was swung around.

Kakashi was staring at him in the eyes, "Ren, the fight is over. Stand down."

DEATH

KILL THEM

WAIT WHO?

HAKU IS AN ORPHAN!

KILL THEM!

BUT KAKASHI?

NO!

“Ren, look at me.” Kakashi commanded.

Techno blinked slowly, “W-wha—”

“You need to calm down,” Kakashi explained, “The rush of battle is a lot and you don't want to do anything stupid.”

KASHI! MOVE!

LET US THRU!

KILL HIM??

NO!!

MORE BLOOD

KAKASHI????

“Eyes on me.” He said again, “You keep fading away and losing focus, keep looking at me.”

Techno nodded, attempting to slow his breathing and focus his vision on his silver-haired sensei.

Nooooo!

We want blood!!

he did just kill like...20 people

But bloooooood!

Kakashi!! How dare you!

TechnoW!

Wow...that's a first.

“Keep your breathing steady,” Kakashi continued, “Don't look away, listen to the sounds around you.”

“Is everyone dead?” His voice cracked.

“Yes. There are no more enemies.” He assured him.

Techno nodded, head dizzy, “I think I need to sit down.”

Kakashi huffed lightly, “Yes—you definitely do.”

Techno swallowed, gripping the sword tighter, “I...also have this.”

“I noticed,” Kakashi chuckled, guiding him to a cleaner ground. Techno slowly sat and sighed with relief.

“I think I have to give it back,” He monotonically jokes.

“We will talk to Zabuza,” Kakashi patted his pink head. Like a parent subduing their child.

Techno nodded, He swung the sword over his lap. He looked it over, it was shiny like it had just been cleaned. There was no blood on it. Unlike him, who was now covered. At least he wore black.

Feet came into his peripheral, and he looked up. Haku stood in front of him. They had taken their mask off at some point, showing a very pretty and doll-like appearance. They blinked at him, “You were very effective in today’s fight, shinobi-san.”

“Not a shinobi,” He corrected tiredly.

“Oh,” They cocked their head, “You are not a shinobi of Konoha?”

Techno hummed, “Not shinobi of any village. Just like to fight.”

“I guess I am whatever that is too,” Haku said, “I also belong to no village. Only with Zabuza.”

Techno raised a brow, “If you say so.”

“And you?” Haku inclined, “Who do you fight for?”

“I fight for myself,” He instantly replied before hesitating, “But...also my family.”

“The girl?” Haku asked.

“Sister,” He sighed.

Haku looked amused, “Not happy about it?”

Techno snorted, “She chose to be a shinobi. Out of everything. The one profession I can't help unless i join”

Haku looked at him, “She is very capable. I wouldn't worry too much, she was able to keep me distracted.”

Techno just sighed, “She shouldn't have had to fight at all.”

Haku looked at him confused, “What—”

“What are you brats talking about?” A snarky voice interrupted.

Zabuza stood next to Kakashi-sensei. He was completely covered in blood and bleeding heavily.

Haku turned slightly, “Who we fight for.”

Kakashi squatted next to him, “We need to leave soon.”

Techno nodded and Zabuza spoke up, “I need my sword back.”

“Alright—”

“Why do you need it?” Kakashi interrupted.

Zabuza blinked at him, “Are you deaf? I am one of the seven swordsmen.”

“*Who* can’t use his sword anymore,” Kakashi nodded. Zabuza scowled at him while Kakashi eye-smiled, “Or did you forget about my gift?”

Zabuza snarled, “It’s damn well not going back to mist—Not so they can give it to another puppet.”

“Give it to him,” Kakashi grabbed Techno’s shoulder, “I don’t know anyone who loves swords more.”

Techno blinked, “Heh?!”

Zabuza gazed at him, “I would rather just give it to Haku.”

“I don’t want it,” Haku quickly replied, “I will never grow into it and I don’t intend to use weapons.”

Techno’s head was starting to pound, “Do I get a say in this?”

Kakashi shushed him before turning back to Zabuza, “And you saw him fight—he knows how to use it.”

Zabuza was fully scowling, “As if I want to give it to a Konoha brat.”

“He’s not a shinobi of Konoha,” Haku said, “He refused to become one. He fights for his enjoyment and to protect his sister.”

Techno didn’t like people, especially when they talked around him.

Zabuza stared at Haku, “You’re on board with this?!”

Haku smiled slightly, “I think he would be a fantastic swordsman and it would be protected with him.”

They stared at Haku, “Protected?”

Haku nodded, “You don’t want just anyone to get a hold of it. At least you would know who has it and that they are worthy of it.”

“You say that like someone might steal it from me,” Zabuza said.

Haku looked away, “Your sword is extremely desirable, if anyone hears you are heavily wounded with it...they will come to kill you.”

Zabuza looked away before staring down at Techno, “You give it back when I'm better, alright brat?!”

Kakashi chuckled, “Tell me when you track down Tsunade, Zabuza.”

He scowled at him, “Yeah, yeah.”

Techno clutched the sword closer, “I will.” They turned to him, “If you come back wanting it, *whenever*, I will hand it over.”

Zabuza stared at him before turning away, “Keep it.”

They gaped after him, Kakashi stuttered, “W-what? That easy?”

Zabuza stopped for a moment, “Just know the consequences and people that will kill you for it.”

Techno looked away, “They want the title and prestige without caring for the history behind it.” A familiar idea.

Zabuza continued to walk away with an exhausted gait.

Haku turned back to them, “Take care.” They turned to run after him, “And tell Naruto I said hello!”

Kakashi turned to his student, “How does Haku know who Naruto is.”

Techno sighed deeply, “I have no idea.”

“I guess,” He turned to him and tutted, “You look like you just got in a fight, my sweet student.”

Techno stood with a groan, “I don't care for your jokes, Kakashi.”

“Oh, you hurt your sensei's feelings.” Kakashi shook his head, “C'mon let's take you to your sister.”

Techno clenched the massive hilt and swung in onto his shoulder and began the walk back.

bit rushed of a chapter
sorry bout that

Kakashi Six

Chapter Notes

sheesh, I have been busy
this one ends a little quickly but don't worry their will be some more talks soon.
esp, between Sakura and Sasuke
and Techno and Kakashi

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Kakashi was glad Ren showed up.

The battle with Zabuza and Haku was not a glamorous one. Sakura was the only ally he had for the moment, and she could end up a liability. He knew skillswise he was far above the both of them, Zabuza and Haku, but they were capable shinobi.

The fight with Zabuza was frustrating. He had chosen not to use his Sharingan, his strongest weapon, as the risk was not outweighing the reward. He could take down Zabuza and maybe Haku, but he would leave his students alone to finish the mission; they could not complete this mission without him. Thus he would not use his Sharingan, however he forgets that he hasn't fought without his Sharingan in years, almost a decade out of practice.

His fight was nowhere comparable to Sakura and Haku's. Sakura was heavily outmatched, she was a genin fighting a chunin. And this was an experienced chunin, raised to fight and show no mercy. Sakura was no slouch, she was his most knowledgeable student, the one to follow the rules and duty, his civilian-born.

The battle between all of them was almost entirely a taijutsu one, kenjutsu specifically, a practice he is very knowledgeable on. But his specialty is in ninjutsu, and a fight without it left him at a disadvantage.

He had hoped to keep both distanced so his student could just defend but they were insistent on it being one vs one. So he had to watch as Haku went to fight his pink student, while she utilised all she had been taught. He had a fear that the second he stepped in Haku would grab and hold her hostage, so he never stepped in, and had been forced to listen as she was beaten down. She held her own admirably, retreating tactfully when the ice jutsu was brought out. She even got a hit in.

The moment she went down and Haku joined his fight, he was almost relieved. Without the fear of Sakura being taken down he fought harder, more aggressive and they did the same.

Then Sakura hit Zabuza right on one of his tenketsu points. His arm fell limp and the fight was suddenly biased. Then Sasuke and Naruto arrived.

He felt that the battle was, basically, won. They both matched up to Haku and Zabuza, they were taken care of.

Getting trapped by Haku was a mistake, wasting his chakra trying to get out was frustrating, but he didn't have Tsunade level strength. But he was still not nervous about his students, Zabuza was wounded and there were three of them.

When Ren shattered the mirror with a solid punch, he made quick work getting out. He had no fear looking at all of them, but then he did. Zabuza almost cut his students down and using Sasuke as a human shield, he had hoped to kill Zabuza, but he wouldn't touch his Uchiha student.

Chidori went straight through his shoulder. Blood and bones stuck to him and he tore his arm out. The battle had ended, until Gato arrived.

He had at Ren's request (*and for his own sanity*) shunshined his student away. Keeping them out and away from a slaughter was in their best interest. Sakura was heavily injured and she didn't need to see her brother in that way, Sasuke was...traumatised from another slaughter, and Naruto should be with his teammates and not *killing people*.

And Ren...Ren was different. He was not young in the way many kids his age were, he knew exactly what was happening, and he was not blinded by it. He decided Ren would be a good comrade in the fight.

Watching Ren fight was fascinating, his taijutsu was similar to Gai's but also subtly different. His wasn't as smooth and as polished as Gai, it was jagged and unpredictable with random bursts of speed and devastating punches. His use with his axe's was inventive and fast paced. But his use with Kubikiribocho was flawless, his strength allowed him to throw it and himself around. He was *ruthless*.

But Kakashi noticed moments, almost impossible to see, Ren looked...animalistic. His red eyes would go blank and it seemed like his strength and power was quadrupled. Those moments were worrying to him, and he kept his eyes on his past student.

When the fight ended and he saw Ren was still in this almost bloodthirsty haze, he stepped in. He thought of bringing out his Sharingan but decided he'd wait to see how the swine summoner would react.

Ren calmed after a few moments of pushing, he treated it like a panic attack, which seemed to work. Keeping Ren's attention on him and not his own thoughts.

But he could feel something was strong, maybe it's the amount of killing intent Ren had put off, or how unbothered he was with killing when, up till now, was a civilian with no experience.

Something was wrong.

He walked calmly next to Ren. They made their way past the town. The people cheered for them as they made their way to where he dropped his student off at.

They were sitting at a table with food in front of them, wrapped in blankets. Sasuke was leaning over the table and Naruto chewing through the food, Sakura was leaning against him with her eyes shut. She must have passed out after he left.

They all looked up as they approached.

“Kakashi-sensei!” Naruto gasped.

Sasuke jerked around and stared at them. Sakura barely moved at the two boys' excitement.

Ren walked over and dropped next to them, propping the sword up next to him. Naruto and Sasuke's jaws were dropped.

“Did-did you... *kill* Zabuza?” Naruto whispered.

Ren looked up blank faced, “Yes.”

They both stared at him in disbelief, and Kakashi sat next to Sasuke across from Ren. Kakashi waved his hand, “Nah, Ren is joking. Zabuza is alive and so is Haku. We all parted on good terms.”

Naruto relaxed, “Oh! Cool! So why do you have the sword?”

“Kakashi swindled Zabuza into handing it over.” Ren reached over and to a sip of Sakura's leftovers.

Sasuke stared at him seemingly uneasy, “Why to you?”

Kakashi smiled to himself, “Ren is an avid sword lover—he is also a capable kenjutsu user. As was proven in the fight.”

They turned to him. “So...how did the fight go?” Naruto asked.

Ren said nothing so Kakashi spoke up, “Good, Gato is taken care of and Haku and Zabuza will be on their way and so our mission is complete.” Naruto looked relieved and Sasuke expressed nothing.

Ren looked around at the crowd of people walking around, “There are a lot more people than I thought.”

Naruto nodded excitedly, “They all showed up when we appeared! They said they would help us cause ‘*we would love to help the ninja who defeated Gato!*’ but we didn't defeat him so I assumed it was you guys.”

Ren blinked at the onslaught of information and energy radiating off Naruto, “Alright.”

Naruto nodded again, “Then Inari showed up and said he would help us fight, but he can't because he's not a ninja. Then his mom hit a guy and knocked him out when he tried to rob her! It was crazy! Then this nice guy and his wife offered us some miso soup.”

Ren at Kakashi desperately, Kakashi eye-smiled, “Wow, sounds like you guys had a good day.”

Naruto smiled wide and Sasuke scoffed looking at them as if to say *‘I’m not failing for that.’* “Yeah! We just had a great mission and a cool fight! I can't wait to tell Iruka-sensei.” “Has anyone treated Sakura?” Ren cut in.

They looked at him as he sat stiffly, Sasuke nodded, “Someone wrapped her arm and hand.”

Ren stared him down, “No one had any ice?”

Sasuke looked uncomfortable at his gaze, “No.”

Naruto turned to Kakashi, “When are we leaving?”

“Tomorrow,” Kakashi affirmed.

“But what about Sakura-chan—?”

“I can carry her,” Ren said, “Or Kakashi can.”

Kakashi stared at his pink haired ex-student, “Ren, when did you leave?” “Eh?” Ren asked, brow raised.

“What day did you leave the village?” Kakashi pressed.

Ren blinked, “Recently.”

“‘Recently?’”

“Yes,” Ren nodded, as if he just gave a satisfying answer.

“Then you must be exhausted.” Kakashi stated.

Ren shook his head, “I can carry Sakura.”

“We can help!” Naruto spoke up, “We are fully rested and we weren't in the whole fight!” Sasuke nodded, “We helped carry Kakashi when he passed out after his fight with Zabuza.”

Ren snorted, “You passed out?”

Kakashi glared mockingly, “How many times did I have to carry you back?”

“Yeah, but you are in your twenties.” Ren exaggerated, “I was a child.”

Kakashi huffed, “I should tell Gai how terrible you are. He would never let you leave the training ground again.”

Sasuke and Naruto were watching the back-and-forth with bafflement on their faces. Naruto hesitantly opened his mouth, “How do you know each other?” Ren barely glanced at them, “Kakashi used to be my teacher.”

Naruto's jaw dropped and swung between the two exaggeratedly, "What! But you aren't—"

"How old are you?" Sasuke interrupted, eyes narrowed at Ren.

Ren's face was scrunched in discomfort, "T-Thirteen."

"So he must have been your teacher for awhile?" Naruto asked, vibrating in his seat.

"Awhile ago," Ren muttered.

"I am not Ren's actual teacher," Kakashi explained, "His actual teacher asked me to teach him what he could not. Ren is just too uptight to call me senpai."

Ren's face scrunched distastefully, "I would rather die."

"So who is your actual teacher?!" Naruto burst out.

Ren looked between him and Sasuke, "A taijutsu fighter who is insane."

Kakashi snorted, "Seemingly accurate."

"Insane?!" Naruto gasped, "What does-is he crazy?!"

"Yes." Ren and Kakashi deadpan.

"Are you a ninja?" Sasuke asked. He leaned forward slightly and pushed away his food to set his arms on the table. "You aren't wearing a hitai-ate, nor are you dressed correctly."

Ren raised a brow and looked at Kakashi with amusement before he sighed. "Actually...." He dug into his shirt and pulled out a scroll, "I'm here on a retrieval mission from Gai who got it from the Hokage."

Kakashi grabbed it, he carefully unscrolled it and looked over it. He hummed, "Seems I am needed back in Konoha as soon as possible."

Naruto blinked as he finished his food, "Are we leaving now then?"

"No," Kakashi told the boys, "We will leave tomorrow morning. When I am rested and while Sakura can be given some medicine. Sasuke."

Sasuke startled at his name.

"You got your Sharingan, right?" He cocked his head.

Sasuke looked down at his hands and hesitated, "...yes."

"You did not use it too much though, so I would just rest tonight and wait to practise it until we get back." Kakashi nodded to him.

Sasuke stared at his teacher before nodding slowly, "I'll wait."

Kakashi smiled to himself, *glad I didn't need to force him to wait*. “Good.”

Naruto grinned at Sasuke, “Oh yeah! You got the eye thing you wanted! I can't wait to tell Sakura!”

Sasuke looked a little uncomfortable at the mention of his other teammate and Ren narrowed his eyes at the Uchiha.

“And...” Naruto continued biting his lip, “Did...Haku mention where they were going?”

They all looked at him confused, but Kakashi nodded, “Zabuza and Haku are more than likely going to go into hiding until Haku is strong enough to defend both of them. But Haku did seem to want to talk to you again.”

Ren and Sasuke looked confused. Sasuke was looking at Naruto like he was a moron while Ren stared at Kakashi looking baffled about why Naruto was asking about their enemy.

“Oh good,” Naruto slouched in relief, “I hope they're okay. I realised who they were in the fight...I was scared they would get killed.”

“Why is the small not-angry blonde asking about the Missing-Nin's?” Ren pressed into Kakashi.

Kakashi laughed coyly, “He's just being concerned for a friend.”

“A friend?” Sasuke almost demanded, “How are they friends?”

“Naruto,” Kakashi called, “Do you want to tell Sasuke or should I?”

Naruto went slightly pink and stuttered, “Well, I-I was sleeping in the woods after practising tree walking and...I woke to someone picking flowers and I-I talked to them and they were really nice! But uh...they were Haku.”

Ren seemed to want to facepalm and Sasuke was staring at Naruto like he was a child.

“You could've died.” Sasuke stated, narrowing his eyes.

“No they were—” Naruto attempted.

“They could have been anyone!” He said.

“But I—”

“Sasuke.”

They turned to Kakashi who was watching them with a sharp eye, “Turn your Sharingan off.”

Sasuke blinked and raised a hand as if to touch his spinning red eyes, “I didn't...”

Kakashi nodded, “I know, turn them off. I know you are concerned for Naruto but you need to stay calm. Your emotions can easily activate the Sharingan without you realising it.”

Sasuke blinked a few more times and the red faded into black eyes.

Kakashi sighed, “And don't worry I was watching over Naruto, I had a clone with him at all times.”

He looked over at Ren. He was leaning over and grabbing the sleeping Sakura and attempting to drape her over him, “We should go back to Tazuna’s. We all need to properly rest.”

They all floundered and stood haphazardly. Naruto waving and thanking everyone they went past while Sasuke stayed next to him watching Ren and Sakura. Kakashi watched over them with a sigh, *The Chunin Exams, Hokage? Does he want them killed? If Gai’s brats weren't ready in their first year then there's no way his are.*

Maybe he’s just trying to get them all killed, he thought morbidly.

Chapter End Notes

over 40 chap! wooOooo

Sakura Nine

Chapter Notes

these might slow down until we get to the Chun exams starting.
but we will be getting waaayyy more character perspectives and arcs!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Sakura woke up to her brother standing over her.

He blinked at her, “Oh, you're awake.”

She groaned at his words, her body was aching and bruised. Her hand twitched and pain shoots up her arm. Her eyes felt stuck together as she gazed at her brother.

“Where are we?” Her voice was raspy.

He bent down and adjusted blankets around her, “We are at your bridge builders home resting. It is the same day as the fight, you will need to eat now that you are awake.”

She blinked up at him.

“And your teammates might come in.”

Sakura groaned and burrowed into the soft blankets. He patted her head sympathetically, “Yes, I know.” He stood, “I will bring up some food and water.”

He closed the door behind him softly.

Sakura wiped her eyes tirelessly, looking around the room. The rushed beds of her teammates were scattered around. She sat up with a wince. She swallowed and looked at her injuries.

The hand she had used to break the ice was wrapped and being iced. She could barely move it. The wound on her arm was also wrapped, but not iced. She attempted to stand only to stumble. She gritted her teeth and tried again.

“I believe you are supposed to be resting,” A light teasing voice said.

She looked up at the window where her Sensei sat. He wasn't looking at her, he was reading his book. He peeked at her with his one eye.

She swallowed, “Are you alright?”

Kakashi continued to read his book, “I believe so—you are the only one to have suffered severe injuries, so no need to worry.”

“Are you...” Her hand twitched again, “Are you exhausted at all?”

He huffed amused, “Sakura, are you asking if I passed out?”

She was too tired to blush, she nodded, “I was worried you got tired fighting *Zabuza and Haku*.”

His hand came to his chest, “Oh, my students have such little faith in me—”

“But you passed out last time,” She interrupted, “Against Zabuza especially with the Sharingan.”

Kakashi closed his book and pocketed it. He stood and couched next to her, “Yes, but that is because of the type of fight it was. Ninjutsu fights don't last as long while taijutsu do. And I chose not to use my Sharingan because I did not think it would be as useful in this fight and of course, keeping someone trapped in a bubble meant to drain chakra. That can definitely lead to chakra exhaustion.”

She smiled ruefully, “I guess so”

He squinted at her, “You don't need to worry, I am a jounin and can handle a little fight.”

“And Sasuke and Naruto are okay?” She asked quietly.

He nodded, “They are fine, Sasuke even has his Sharingan now.”

Her throat felt closed, “So it's just me.”

“Sakura,” Kakashi-sensei's voice was sharp, “It does not matter that you are the only one injured because everyone's circumstances were different.”

She shook her pink head, “It just...I feel so...powerless. Everyone was able to hold their own, except for me and...I suffered for it.”

He shook his own head, “You were outmatched and Sasuke and Naruto were together and I am a jounin. You did as well as you could—and even better than what I expected.”

She nodded as a tear fell from her eye, “Thanks, Kakashi-senesi.”

Suddenly he leaned over slightly and looked her in the eye, “You are not the weak link.”

Her breath froze and she leaned over and laid her head on his shoulder. Her frame shook from the sobs and he was completely still.

“I'm sorry for crying,” She whispered, “I just feel real bad.”

Slowly a hand rested on her head, “It's okay...you're allowed to cry.”

She leaned in further and let her sobs fade away as she stayed leaning against her tense Sensei. His hands hesitantly rested around his small hurt student and he hummed slightly, “Naruto and Sasuke are about to come in.”

She pulled away and wiped her eyes, “Okay—thank you, Sensei.”

He simply eye-smiled, “Just don't tell them I let you cry on me.” He vanished in a small breeze.

The door let out a loud bang and it swung open.

Naruto and Sasuke were shoving at each other, but froze when they saw her sitting up.

Naruto shouldered past Sasuke, “Sakura! You are awake!” He slid in front of her and narrowed his eyes slightly, “Have you been crying?”

She felt shocked at his observation, but she shook her head, “Its okay—Im just relieved everyone's okay.”

Sasuke walked over and sat criss-cross in front of her, he seemed to not know how to start a conversation.

She looked at Naruto with a smile, “Thanks for showing up when you guys did, I didn't know how much more I had in me.”

Naruto scoffed lightly, “You were great! You didn't need our help to beat those guys.”

She felt a grin pulling at her mouth at Naruto's faith and enthusiasm, “Yeah, but i'm still glad you guys showed.”

Naruto nodded happily before turning to Sasuke and unsubtly nudging him and giving him a look. Sasuke did nothing except glare at him. Naruto turned to her with a painful looking smile, “Sounds like Ren-san needs some help!” Naruto stood and ran to the door, “Also—Sasuke needs to talk to you!” He slammed the door closed.

They both started after him confused before she looked at Sasuke. She licked her lips and breathed in, “I did not mean what I said.”

He looked to her with plain eyes, “What?”

She looked away from him, “I didn't mean to be cruel or to...bring up your brother.”

He flinched back, “I...”

“I am sorry about bringing him up,” She nodded, “I am not sorry about yelling at you, ‘cause you kinda deserved it but...I didn't mean to be mean.”

He stared at her baffled before he straightened himself, “You shouldn't have brought up... *him* ...but I am sorry as well for saying what I did. I am...not better than you and...and I will try to be more respectful of Kakashi-sensei from now on.”

She huffed with a smile, “That's because he actually earned your respect now?”

He looked away slightly pink, “He isn't useless.”

She grinned, "No, he isn't, just annoying sometimes." She sobered, "I had only wanted to talk to you."

He nodded, sighing, "So did I, I didn't mean to, basically call you a know-it-all, because you do know sometimes and I am...not better."

She stared slightly shocked, "But I am sometimes." She chuckled ruefully, "I can be arrogant with my opinions or judgy and I don't mean to be."

"You deserve my respect." He suddenly started, "After today's fight, you are worthy of respect and I hope to be more of a team with you and...Naruto."

She didn't quite like how he said that but she appreciated it, "And I will not judge you so harshly on your actions or how you act."

He nodded looking pleased that she took his words to heart, "And...I still would like to that book."

"Which book?" Ren called as he walked in holding a plate.

She smiled at him, "The one you gave me."

He crouched and handed her the food and water. He turned to Sasuke and stared down at him, "I have much more than that if you ever want to read them."

Sasuke blinked but nodded, "Of course."

"But I am not giving you any," Ren bluntly said.

Sasuke looked at her, "She said the same."

Ren nodded, "Good, she knows me well."

She swallowed down some food quickly. She noted the strange tension between them, but it mostly came from Sasuke. Ren was acting the exact same but it seemed Sasuke didn't like him; that would have to change.

She gestured to Sasuke looking at her brother, "He's Uchiha." The food in her mouth made it sound slightly strange but he seemed to get her meaning.

Ren hummed, glancing at Sasuke, "I have plenty of Uchiha book's for you to read."

Sasuke nodded stiffly, "If you would."

"Bruh," He said quietly, then louder, "Okay, just ask Sakura if you ever want them." He stood and walked out of the room giving her a raised eyebrow as he left.

She looked at Sasuke curiously, "Why do you dislike my brother?"

"Hn," He looked at her.

She blinked confused, “Why don't you like him? Whenever I even talk about him you get uncomfortable.”

He looked away and said nothing.

Realisation went off and she felt very bad, “Oh, your brother, I'm sorry I didn't think hearing about mine would remind you of him—”

“It does,” Sasuke interrupted, “He reminds me...a lot of mine.”

Why would her brother remind him of his mass murderer of a brother, she thought, “But I doubt they even look alike—”

“They do,” He said, “In the right light, same long hair and...eyes.”

She didn't know how to feel about that, “He's not.”

“I know.” He stated, his eyes were red with one tomoe. *The Sharingan.*

She ate some more, “You got your Sharingan?”

He blinked at her confused, “Yeah during the fight.”

She pointed to his eyes, “But now?”

He blinked rapidly and turned away focused on deactivating them, he let out a hum, before murmuring, “That keeps happening.”

“You can't control it?” She asked finishing her food.

“I can,” He said, “It just keeps activating randomly.”

“Is it connected to something?”

Sasuke thought for a moment, “Kakashi...sensei said it was my emotions.”

She yawned but nodded, “If it's connected to your chakra system—that would make a lot of sense.”

He nodded and stared at her, “Sleep, we are leaving tomorrow.”

She blinked tired, “So soon?”

“Your brother came to retrieve Kakashi-sensei for the Hokage,” He stated.

She laid down and closed her eyes, “My brother came for Sensei?” She laughed to herself, “Sure.”

She heard his sigh and a hand pat her head, “Get some rest, Sakura.”

Chapter End Notes

omg they're friends again

also now Naruto needs to bond with Kakashi! he's the only one missing from crying child and comfort

Technoblade Ten

Chapter Notes

any predictions for churn exams?

im going to mix up who fights who, just seems more fun

Im glad everyone enjoyed the finally of the 'wave arc' this is the arc that changes the least

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Techno was happy to leave.

After a goodnight sleep after running for two days and an intense fight he was very glad to be leaving the small village. He might tell his father and mother to bring business here now that Gato is gone and the people are willing to stand up for themselves but the country was not very liked by his parents due to...murder and genocide.

Rational things.

They had stood at the bridge for a few hours. Listening and waving off the yells and praises from the village folk. They attempted to hand them numerous items (*He did take some of them*) and begged them to stay. The drunk bridge man even told them he would name the bridge after them.

They all had fantastic suggestions.

“You should name it after Kakashi-sensei.” He deadpanned.

They turned to his Sensei who was frantically shaking his head, “No—my students were the ones who did all the work!”

They turned to the three, Naruto air pumped, “Yeah! Name it after me! Naruto Uzumaki! Future Hokage!”

Sasuke scoffed, “Our Sensei was the one who took out Zabuza and your brother” He pointed to Sakura, “Took out Haku.”

Sakura looked slightly interested when someone from the crowd yelled out, ‘who killed Gato!’

Kakashi-sensei looked amused, “Why, that was our good friend Zabuza!”

The silence was hilarious.

Sakura hesitantly spoke up, “How about just after the team?”

They turned to her, "What's the name of your team?"

"Team Kakashi."

"Team Seven."

Techno and Sakura said together. She glared at him while he smirked. Kakashi also glared at him.

"Lucky Seven!" Tazuna cut in, "Sounds like it could be great!"

The village mumbled half-heartedly, and Tsunami glared fiercely at them, "Sounds great, right?!"

They frantically nodded.

Naruto pouted slightly, "But what about Uzumaki!?"

Sakura punched his shoulder lightly, "You'll have plenty of opportunities to have things named after you!"

Sasuke tsked, "C'mon moron, you're also on the team."

He brightened, "Oh yeah! Sweet! Now we are all here! Well, except for Ren-san."

They turned to him but he was already shaking his head, "No, I refuse."

"Are you sure, 'Ren-san?'" Kakashi asked coyly, "After all, you did do so much work."

Techno glared at them, "I would rather not."

"Just let it be Seven something!" Sakura begged, fidgeting where she stood.

Sasuke nodded, "It's settled." He turned to the crowd and narrowed his eyes at them, "Just name it Seven something."

They frantically nodded again.

Sasuke smirked, "Good."

They left soon after that. The small child and the not-angry blonde had a sob fest and hugged each other as they left. Other than that, it has been peaceful.

Sakura had walked for a while but was exhausted quickly. Techno had her clung to his back for plenty of the walk. Sasuke and Naruto had talked through the whole first day, Kakashi had once in a while asked them something or told Sasuke to turn off his 'pinwheel eyes.' They stopped for the night right as the sun had set.

He carefully laid out his blankets and then sat Sakura on it. She clung to his arm in her exhaustion. She blinked at him drowsily then smiled. He reached over with his other hand, "You have to let me go."

She shook her head, “No.”

He sighed and Chat let out ‘*aww*’s,’ “I need to help keep watch, I can't do that if you cling to me.”

She sighed and let him go, “I’m sorry.”

His brow furrowed, “What?”

She looked sad, “I feel useless.”

“You aren't,” He shook his head, “You are just hurt, do you think Kakashi was upset when he got hurt?”

She shrugged, “Maybe—but I think he pushes through it.”

“That’s because he’s a child soldier who's never had emotions,” He immediately replied.

She giggled and got comfortable, looking up at him, “I think Sasuke is scared of you.”

He snorted, “Obviously.”

“I think Naruto thinks you're cool,” She grinned.

He flipped his hair dramatically, “Obviously.”

She laughed loudly, “Goodnight Ren.”

Night Techno!

He blinked, “Night.”

She rolled over and seemingly passed out.

He stood and made his way to Kakashi-sensei. Naruto and Sasuke were already settling down, and they set up near Sakura.

He stood next to the tall pale figure. Looking up at him, he hummed, “Are we going to take shifts?”

“Sure,” Kakashi drawled, “You take first.”

Techno snorted, “Alright, i'll wake you about midnight.”

Kakashi hummed and nodded, “Okay.”

He turned and made his way to a tree. Techno breathed in and out. The area was quiet and he truly doubted they would be attacked, but it didn't help to keep an eye out.

Bro we would tell you

Pfft no we wouldn't

I would! I dont want anyone to get hurt :(

But what about the unexpected?!

Always expect it

dumbasses, all of us

...

Hey Techno?

Techno blinked at the voice, it reminded him of when someone would donate and their voice would resonate louder than the others. He mumbled quietly, “Who is that?”

Wtf

Idk maybe someone did donate?

How the fuck do I donate to sound like that?!

L to you

Are they still here?

Idk

Probably, where tf would they go

Have you tried looking in yet?

..

..

Holy shit.

“Who is that?” He stressed, fidgeting, “What are they talking about?”

Don't listen to them

No seriously don't

Its not fucking worth it

I mean...

NO!

They might just be manipulating you

Definitely

Even if its cool for us! Don't do it.

“What are they talking about?” He whispered, looking around the area. His long braided hair swung around his head as he looked around. He fiddled with his rings.

Its shit

Bad man

It's uncontrollable.

“But what is it?”

They all started talking at once yelling about different things when...

It could give you answers about why you are here.

Chat immediately began protesting but Techno still wanted to know what it was. He decided to do something he rarely did, he messaged a moderator.

“Can you hear me?” He murmured.

Yep! Loud and clear, can you?

“What is looking inside?”

...

It's uh... its when you decide to look straight at chat basically but kinda more complicated.

“As in..?”

Looking at the dead, Techno. You would be looking at the realm of the dead, seeing and being able to interact with us.

“How bad is that?” He asked.

Its kinda like a maze here, so you could get lost. And...

“And?”

Getting here means you have to close your eyes and dissociate. So if you get lost...something else might take your body or your body would just die.

He swallowed thickly, “How would I get answers?”

You can see all of the dead here. Even those who don't interact with you...so some are more knowledgeable than the others. Older, smarter, more powerful and they tend to hide here. You would have to actively search them out.

“So it's not guaranteed?” He asked.

No, i wouldnt trust that voice. I will just ban them, they might just want to take over.

Techno nodded, “Alright, just ban them. I don't want anyone bringing up—”

“Who are you talking to?”

Techno startled and turned with an axe in hand. It was stopped and Techno blinked at the character standing in front of him.

Sasuke was holding up a kunai knife to his axe. Looking at him completely baffled and alarmed.

Techno quickly dropped the axe and fell back, “What?”

Sasuke blinked, “What do you mean ‘what?’ You just attacked me.”

“You startled me,” He said, completely rational and not panicking.

Sasuke stared at him, obviously not seeing it, “I asked you a question.”

“What?” Techno asked, playing dumb.

Sasuke rolled his eyes, “Who were you talking to?”

Techno blinked.

Play dumb!

OH SHIT

Kill him!

He can't know anything!

“Uhh,” He said intelligently, “I was...talking to myself.”

...

....

...

I mean...

He's not wrong...

Sasuke eyed him questionably, “You were *that* distracted talking to yourself?”

Techno was sweating metaphorical bullets, “Yes.”

“Maybe Kakashi should take watch then,” Sasuke stated bluntly.

Great. Now he thinks were incompetent

Pffft

He thinks you are dumb bro.

Does he want smth?

Imagin a toddler thinkin were dumb lol

Hes the one that trusts that creepy snake

Yeah! who s the idiot here?!?

“No its fine,” Techno shook his head, “I’m fine, just got a little distracted.”

Sasuke seemed unconvinced, “Okay.”

Techno waited for a moment and when Sasuke said nothing else, he opened his mouth, “Did you want something?”

Sasuke looked at him sharply, “I was wondering...about those books.”

“The Uchiha books,” Techno was relieved, of all the subjects he chose the easiest, “What about them?”

“Who sold you them?” Sasuke fidgeted slightly.

“You mean, how did they get them?” Techno summarised.

Sasuke clenched his fists, “Yes.”

“You wanna know if I know if any of them raided your clan home,” Techno bluntly said.

He flinched but nodded with a tight jaw, “Do you know any of them?”

Techno leaned back and thought, “Most just buy from others like a game of pass around but one...one I bought from said he got it from a sibling. And I *know* his sibling is a bit of a thief. But that's the only one. The rest are just picking scraps.”

Sasuke looked slightly upset, “Do you have their names?”

Techno felt amusement bubble up, “You wanna go kill them?”

“What?” Sasuke shook himself and looked at him.

“You want to track them down and interrogate them?” Techno laughed gruffly, “You won't find anything. And even so. They won't be the ones who did it.”

“Then who did?!” Sasuke cracked, “Who stole from m-my home?”

Techno smiled grimly, “The people of Konoha.”

Sasuke blinked shocked, “What?”

“The only people who could have raided and stolen from you in a matter of days? That would be people who were already here. Traders who live on the streets, other ninja who might want a buck, or even those looking specifically for Uchiha eyes or secrets. Those would be of the Leaf.” He replied, “No one else would know the place well enough, and no one would be as protected as its own citizens.”

Sasuke stared wide-eyed at him, “Are...are you saying—?”

“That's how I see it,” He shrugged, only feeling slightly bad about disrupting the Uchiha's world, “People can be...cruel. They will excuse their actions by saying, ‘ *he's just one young boy, he won't need this* ’ or even ‘ *he won't even notice.* ’ I...I have seen people sell something precious to someone they know then smile at them on the streets.”

Sasuke looked away looking more and more upset, “Do you think I know any of them?”

Techno thought for a moment, “If they smile a little too widely or keep you away from their wares. It might be them. But...There were too many people to tell and we live in a place where people lie for a living.”

“So you think it's more than likely,” Sasuke bowed his head.

“Yes,” Techno waved his ringed hand, “But I am extremely paranoid and don't trust anyone in our village.”

He finally turned to look at him with his now bloody red eyes, “No, I think it's probable.”

Techno wondered if he made a mistake before waving it away, “Then do whatever you want with that.”

“Wait,” Sasuke said, “The...book you gave Sakura...di-did you agree with it?”

Techno turned to him, “Eh, kinda, I mean...the Senju weren't good but the Uchiha were also not saints. It was war, and they were both terrible. But the way people look back at the Uchiha as if they were the villains and the Senju the heroes is ridiculous. There is no such thing as heroes.”

Do you wanna be a hero, Tommy?

Sasuke nodded and breathed out, “Thank you.”

You wanna be a hero?

“For what?” He asked blandly.

THEN DIE LIKE ONE!

“Not lying to me.” Sasuke said, “Or evading my question or...treating me like I'm fragile.”

“Everyone deserves the truth,” Techno stated, “Even a little orphan boy like you.”

Sasuke flinched but nodded, “You...I don't think you would like m-my brother.”

Techno blinked confused, “That guy who murdered your whole family? What for...for...”

Orders

Orders

He did it under orders

‘For the good of the village’

Bullshit

“...for his own pleasure.” He shook his head, “No. I doubt it.”

Sasuke adjusted his shirt and looked back at his sleeping teammates, “Good.”

*I wouldn't kill my family for anything. Not even if the Gods themselves begged me too.
Especially if a stupid fucking village ordered it for their own selfish reasons, God I hate
Government and ridiculous military dictatorship.*

“Sleep well,” Techno said awkwardly, his thoughts were still stewing.

Sasuke nodded and went to sleep between Naruto and Sakura.

Techno looked around the area. Listening to the noises of the forests and staring at the full moon and starry sky. He was sharply reminded that he was without his original family or friends. No one here even knew his real name.

He stared blankly into the abyss.

And the abyss called back.

“Maa, that was quite the talk you had with my student, Ren-san.”

Techno turned numbly to Kakashi-sensei who stood next to him, “He wanted to know.”

Kakashi looked him up and down, “Mhm, I guess I should've expected you to always give a blunt answer...even when you shouldn't.”

The meaning behind those words kicked in, “Are you warning me, Kakashi?” Techno asked.

That lone grey eye crinkled, “What makes you say that?”

“Cause I know you would never threaten me,” Techno stated with certainty, “So you are warning me.”

Kakashi stared at him eerily, “Be careful with words like yours.”

“The truth?” Techno asked.

“Some might prefer to call it treason,” Kakashi said lightly.

“I would rather speak treason than lie,” Techno nodded, he reached up to fix his earrings, “Especially if someone is asking me directly.”

“Because you can't lie,” Kakashi deadpanned, “Especially if someone is staring at you.”

Techno snorted, “Lies.”

Kakashi looked amused but it faded quickly, “You need to be careful specifically with my team.”

Techno weighed his words, “You mean the flight-risk and living container?”

Kakashi was completely still and Techno wondered if he messed up. It would not be a fair fight. No matter how strong Techno was, he was not that now. That was from decades worth of training and experience. Here, Kakashi was far stronger.

“Yes,” Kakashi lightly replied, “Them.”

Techno breathed out and relaxed, “I get that.”

“Which means you shouldn't call them that,” Kakashi said.

Techno slowly nodded, “I will not say it in public.”

“Good.” Kakashi turned away, “I would hate for something to happen to you.”

Techno blinked at the thought, “Yeah, same.”

Kakashi chuckled, “Goodnight Ren.”

Techno hummed, “Have a good sleep.”

“See you in a few hours,” Kakashi called as he made his way to his claimed spot.

Techno rubbed his eyes, “See you then.” He mumbled, rubbing his palms down his now cream pants. He let out a long sigh and stared at the sky.

“I shouldn't have said anything.” He grumbled to himself.

I don't think it matters

Yeah, kid is never going to stay in the village for long

Never seen it, he always leaves.

At least kakashi is cool with us

Yeah! Everything went better than expected.

No one died at least.

Wonder how that will affect things...

Idk...maybe they were supposed to die

...

Techno sighed and closed his eyes, he hoped he didn't change anything too drastically, he didn't really want to change this world all that much.

Chapter End Notes

OooOOoo what could it all mean?!

also soon are going to be some new perceptives

Like Kiba, Lee and more Naruto and maybe more TenTen.

idk all of em

Sakura Ten

Chapter Notes

strange chap, but it felt nice to have.

this was supposed to come out a few days ago but I got very distracted.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

They were slow moving.

Trudging along like cows in a herd. Ren fully blamed Kakashi for their pace. He insisted they shouldn't rush and regularly took long breaks. Most of which he spent reading his book.

Sakura was asleep most times but by the time of the third day, Kakashi insisted that he might be able to do some basic medical jutsu on her wounds now that they aren't so deep.

He healed her arm easy enough, though he said he had done a rough job. Her hand, however, was not taken care of. Instead he used an old jutsu to help apply cold air around her hand. He explained that if it was broken and fingers shattered he would not be able to heal it. Nor should he.

After he healed parts of her she was much more active. Able to walk on her own for longer and less exhausted.

Kakashi told her it's because it was the first time she ever over-used her chakra. He said it would '*get easier*,' she said that was unhealthy but he waved that off.

Her relationship with her teammates was better than ever. Her and Naruto were still mischievous and encouraging. Laughing with each other and playing games to entertain one another. They also told different stories of what happened. Him talking about how they were initially attacked at Tazuna's and how he and Sasuke (*along with Tsunami and Inari*) fought them off.

Sasuke had explained that they were there to either kill Tazuna or take his daughter and granddaughter hostage. Neither worked out as he had hired civilian thugs not ninjas. Thus they were easily dealt with.

Ren was reading random books he apparently had stashed or he would be crocheting. The most interesting thing that happened was the end of the third day.

Ren had pulled out his new sword, cleaning and sharpening it. He was wrapping the handle with a red fabric when Naruto went up to him and asked him to do something.

"You want me to spar with you all?" Ren repeated dryly.

“Yeah!” Naruto nodded, “You seem really strong and we don't really get to spar often! Sensei is rarely there to watch us and we mostly just fight with each other. But It would be cool if all of us could work together.”

Ren blinked at him, “I'm not a teacher.”

Naruto shook his head, “I don't want you to teach us! I want you to fight us!”

Ren looked at her and Sasuke, “Are you—?”

“Yeah!” Sakura enthused, “I'm ready to try!”

Sasuke nodded coolly, “We don't want to be out of practice.”

Ren looked between before turning to the trees behind him, “And you are okay with this?”

“Oh, me?” Their Sensei's voice ran out, “I'm surprised you asked, as it seems you might be the only one of my students to consider asking me first.” His voice was slightly dark by the end of his statement. They all looked at each other nervously.

He stepped out of the trees next to Ren, “But I would like to give my approval, I think all of you could do with some training. And Ren is a very capable warrior.” They stared at him as he walked over. He looked over all of them before laying out the rules. “All of you have to at least get a lethal shot off on him, while he will attempt to incapacitate you when everyone is caught it ends. This will last until...eight.”

“That's...” Sakura said, “That's three hours.”

Kakashi nodded, “I figured you would all need it. Any questions?”

“Lethal shot? As in?” Sasuke immediately threw in.

Kakashi waved his hand, “Not actually, we will know when you have Ren in a position that would mean he's *'out'* or something like that. Just remember, all of you need to do it at least once and I recommend you all help each other.”

“Will it restart when we get our shot?” Sakura asked.

“No,” Kakashi-sensei decided, “You will have to rescue each other.”

They all looked at each other when Ren spoke up, “Do I get a say in this?”

“No.” Kakashi's eye smiled at him, “As your de facto team leader you have to do what I say.”

Ren huffed but shrugged, “Fine.”

“Alright, then—”

“I recommend they get planning time.” Ren interrupted.

They looked at him confused, but he glanced away, “The best way to trap me would be for them to plan in advance.”

Kakashi blinked before humming, “Sure.” He looked at them, “You have twenty minutes to plan for each person.”

“Twenty?” Naruto repeated, “To plan for all of us?”

“Yes,” Kakashi said, “Good luck. Time starts now.”

They gathered together quickly away from Ren. They peeked over at him before looking at each other, and Sakura decided to start.

“So each of us have to be the one to get a shot off, meaning we can't just let Naruto run in with his clones. He's making it so that all of us will have to be in danger and in the open, meaning it's harder to use our advantages.” Sakura said quickly.

“Sakura,” Sasuke said, “What are Ren's biggest weaknesses?”

She blinked, “Um, he has really good stamina so we can't drag out the fights and he's entirely a taijutsu type.”

“Entirely?!” Naruto gaped, “He doesn't use anything else?”

She shook her head, “He can't but he does have....” *A Kekkei Genkai that lets him pinpoint and predict people's movements.*

“What does he have?” Sasuke asked.

She stuttered, “He-He's really strong with taijutsu and able to counter other methods so don't think this will be easy.”

Sasuke narrowed his eyes at her but Naruto nodded, “Yeah! He was able to easily break through Haku's ice thing! Okay so...I have my clones and can do some of the basic academy stuff and I can walk on trees but...not for too long.”

Naruto looked at Sasuke who scoffed, “I have the Sharingan and I have fireball jutsu and I can use the Uchiha style of fighting, and can do all of the acadimes jutsu and...same as Naruto with the tree walking.”

Sakura nodded, “I can tree walk and water walk for a while and can do the academy jutsu but I'm still not really able to use my hand.” *Is that it? Does she have nothing else to brag about?* She thought depressingly.

They all nodded and Naruto clapped his hands together, “I think the easiest way for me to get him is to overwhelm him and get all of my clones to throw, like shuriken and rush him!”

They nodded, it was basic but could work, “I don't know what he can do with his sword so it would be best to keep distance.”

They nodded, Sasuke narrowed his eyes at the other two, "It would be best to simply never go near him, if he's so strong in taijutsu we shouldn't get close."

"We could..." Sakura thought, "If we could surround him, Sasuke could try to hit him with his fireball which would mean he can't defend himself."

They nodded and Naruto looked at her, "That just means we have to do something for you Sakura-chan."

She nodded thinking, she was the weakest link, she couldn't use one hand and her skills were all defensive and offensive. And she could be strong, but Ren was far stronger.

"I...could...make a henge." They turned to her and she blushed.

"Like hide with the clones?" Naruto asked.

She shrugged, "It's just...he knows all of my moves and none of my new ones could take him out."

"Hiding with the clones could work," Sasuke said with certainty, "If we start the match with Naruto making as many clones as he can and scattering them. It would take him awhile to find the real us and we could lure him using Sakura's perfect jutsu's and I could hit him with a fireball. And we will keep up the cycle until we all get a shot off..."

This is going to go down hill so fast, She nodded, "And...by the way Kakashi-sensei explained it, if we get caught we could help each other escape. Which means if one of us gets caught we should try to lure him away."

They nodded, Naruto fiddled with his bright orange shirt, "What will he use to in-ca-pacitate us?"

"He will probably just tie us up or...he might use Theseus..." She tapped her chin.

"Theseus?" They both said.

She blinked, "Oh, Ren has a summoner scroll for the swine."

They stared at her, before Naruto asked, "For what?!"

Sasuke shook his head at him, "Idiot, it's like boars and pigs."

Naruto sat back with a dropped jaw, "But if he does that...how hard will it be to escape?"

She sighed, "Theseus isn't the smartest but he's not weak, he's very fast and can throw you a few feet if he rams into you."

"He's a boar then?" Sasuke said.

She nodded, "He's also very angry but can be bribed."

They all nodded with a sigh, Sakura scratched her face, “This is either going to go really bad or really well.”

They nodded.

It, in kind words, went to shit.

It wasn't that their plans didn't work, he was lured and trapped, but they failed to account for how strong and fast he was. He easily fought through the Naruto clones and was able to trap Naruto himself quickly. Tying him up with a rope and leaving him alone while he chased the other two panicking pre-teens. Sasuke had sent a clone to help Naruto as they decided to try and hit him with a fireball.

Sasuke had gotten him to the clearing and Sakura had made a small amount of clones and used them to herd Ren into the middle. Sasuke had quickly summoned his chakra and used the jutsu on the standing Ren.

The flaming ball of fire rolled its way quickly to Ren and they waited for them to call it. But instead Ren pulled out the massive blade and...

Deflected the fireball.

They are so dead.

She quickly came to the conclusion they were not going to be able to do any lethal hits. Instead it became a game of cat and mouse. Them running in circles randomly attempting to hit them while they tried not to get caught. Naruto had joined them and summoned more Naruto's but Ren ran through them while they gathered in a tree.

She gasped for breath as she leaned against a tree, “What are we going to do?”

Naruto was more paranoid than she'd ever seen him, “I-I am confused. I thought he wouldn't be this hard to catch!”

She shook her head, “I thought he might take it easy on us but..”

“He's toying with us,” Sasuke grunted dramatically.

“We-we should have asked to just spar.” Naruto said.

She and Sasuke nodded quickly, “This is just cruel.”

“Is it?” A monotone voice asked.

They screamed and ran into the bushes.

It went on for much longer than they expected. Sasuke got caught at one point and she and Naruto had ended up playing keep away in an attempt to rescue him. In the end, none of them

were able to get a lethal hit, but Naruto and Sasuke did hit him a few times. Ren's healing caught their attention when Sasuke threw a shuriken that hit him in the arm. But eight hits with no successes and them exhausted.

They sat in front of Kakashi-sensei while panting. He looked over at them lazily, "You all look great!" He exclaimed sarcastically.

Sakura has never felt the urge to hit someone so much. Naruto sighed, "That was way too hard."

Ren made his way over looking like he just had a nice walk, "I think that went well."

They scowled at him and Kakashi chuckled, "You all might be upset but I think you all are ignoring something."

They stared and Naruto burst out, "What?!"

He tilted his head, "The game is a tie."

They all yelled, "What?!"

He looked over at Ren who looked very upset at the statement, "The time is up but none of you are tied up but none of you got a hit off. Thus no one wins."

They all blinked and then cheered. Ren looked away upset but also resigned.

"I think you did well given your circumstances," Kakashi-sensei nodded, "I, truly, did not expect any of you to get it; Ren has been training in this style since he started, it's his specialty. But I didn't expect you to not get caught," He looked over at Ren who looked away, "I thought you might catch at least one of them in the end."

Ren sighed, "They're teamwork and speed was faster than I thought."

Kakashi hummed, "You should actually sleep at night, it might help."

Ren was slightly pink and looked away.

Kakashi looked at them again, "I find myself rather proud. Your teamwork *was* very effective and you had a bad plan but you made sure not to lose sight of one another. And your stamina is better than I thought, even if Ren is extremely tired and rather limited in what he can do... well done."

They felt pride heat up their chests and grinned at one another. Sakura shakily stood up and Naruto leaned over and helped her. Sasuke followed after them slowly while keeping an eye on Ren.

The camp was set up and they all collapsed into their bags and drank the water.

Ren came into camp last. He walked along the trees and crouched and began cleaning his sword. Kakashi sat in front of them with a sigh, "He needs to sleep tonight."

“Why isn't he sleeping?” Naruto asked as he dug into his prepped meal.

“Paranoia and worry,” Sensei assured, “It's making him slower and a tiny bit delirious.”

Sakura scowled while eating, “That's not healthy.”

Kakashi chuckled, “Not technically, but he wants us safe.”

“And you?” Sasuke stabbed into his food, “You want us all *that* safe?”

They all looked at him surprised and Kakashi hummed looking at Sasuke, “Why do you think I let him stay up all night?”

They blinked at him and he seemed to smile, “Because I trust him to keep us safe and I trust that I know how to keep all of you safe.”

Sasuke refused to look up and kept eating. Kakashi stared at him, “Don't worry Sasuke, everything will be fine. We will soon be home and I will go back to training all of you.”

Nartuo nodded excitedly, “Yeah! And we can go on some cool new missions!”

“And Kakashi-sensei can help you train your Sharingan!” Sakura added.

Sasuke sighed and looked up at Sensei, “I was the first one tired. I used all of my chakra before Sakura.”

They looked at him and Kakashi nodded, “Yes, that's what the Sharigan can do without practice and you attempted to use it in the fight. That doesn't mean you are behind, it means you have a new tool you need to perfect and...it means Sakura has gotten better.”

Sakura flushed and smiled.

Sasuke sighed but nodded, “Alright.”

Ren dropped down from the tree and sat next to them with a sigh and looked and Sensei, “You take the first watch.”

Kakashi eye-smile, “Of course.”

They finished their meal in silence.

That night as they all laid together Naruto turned over and looked at them. He quietly whispered, “Are any of you awake?”

Sakura mumbled tiredly, “Yes.”

Sasuke opened his eyes, “What do you want, Naruto?”

He looked over them with a small smile, “You guys are my best friends.”

Sakura opened her eyes at his words and smiled back, “And you are one of mine.”

Sasuke didn't speak for a moment but eventually scoffed, "You are my teammates, and I... trust both of you."

Naruto grinned, "Aw, thanks Sasuke."

Sakura giggled and looked at her team, "I-I'm glad this is our team."

Naruto closed his eyes with a smile, "I am too, I wouldn't have been as happy with anyone else."

Sasuke shifted and closed his eyes, "Sleep, we need to wake early."

Sakura eventually rolled over and closed her own eyes with a smile and warm feeling in her chest.

Chapter End Notes

man its like im building up these team moments for something to happen later...
these shits are going to as close as siblings when im down with them

Lee One

Chapter Notes

new arc babyyyy
not even a thousand words smh.
it is only a bridge to later stuff but...

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Rock Lee was a *nobody* .

A boy from an orphanage with no particular talent and no notable family. He stuck out in a crowd due to his personality, because he was annoying and loud and positive. He tried to keep a kind attitude, always helping and being helpful to others, but people didn't seem to appreciate this.

Deciding to be a ninja was a difficult one for him. He had wanted to be a civilian nurse for the longest time, to help people. But the opportunity to apply and go to the academy had arrived and he had decided to try.

Then he found out he was *broken* . His body was born with a disability he could never control. His chakra coils were broken, and he could never be a ninja.

But then he was. They had allowed him into the academy and he still wondered why. But either way he now had the chance and he would take it.

It was hard—harder than anything he's ever done. Going to the academy everyday only to be told he would have to sit out or desperately try, but to no avail. The other students were no help to his troubles. They were cruel and mocking, not understanding and always looking down on him. It was more pain than he could ever admit.

But he was not someone who backed down, so he continued training everyday and keeping up with his studies. He would not be able to be the best but he would not be the worst.

He, however, did not know what to do for graduation. He was unable to do the main task of graduating, jutsu's. He felt that he had hit the end of his rope with nowhere to go, but he didn't.

Because of Gai-sensei.

His Sensei had believed in him and vouched for him, vowed to help and teach him to be a spectacular ninja with his help and Lee...

He dedicated everything to his teacher. His fighting, clothing and his hair. He became what he admired the most.

But he kept his favourite things about himself close to him, his kindness and helpfulness, his hopefulness and love. He tucked it away and vowed to never let it go.

But as a genin ninja, he didn't need any of those traits. He needed Gai-sensei's confidence and assurance and Ren-senpai's ease and coolness, even Neji and Tenten's responsibility. He did what he could to become the best ninja for his village.

His team was not what he expected.

He had known Tenten from the academy. She was also an orphan like him, a product of the Third Shinobi War, left and forgotten. But Tenten had skills, she would be a phenomenal Weapon Mistress. Her calm and easygoing nature assured her ability to work with people, she understood who she was and had no problem bending instead of breaking.

Ren-senpai had been a complete surprise, another member who would teach and help him with his taijutsu when Gai-sensei worked with his teammates. He was cool and powerful, never bending but never yielding. He was intelligent and the perfect warrior.

Gai-sensei was his teacher and the most powerful person in his life. Especially after learning about the Eight Gates. Gai was who he aspired to be, the ultimate power of youth and strength and comradery.

Neji was...his rival. His measure for power and main gauge on his progress. Neji was the prodigy of the school, collected and strong, he was a Hyuga with a powerful Byakugan. Destined to become more than anyone else, a powerful jounin and protector of the Main Branch of the Hyuga. And Neji accepted this... *bitterly* .

He refused to admit he didn't like Neji when they first became teammates. But he was cruel and strong and a good target for his frustration, even if he can't actually do anything to him. He got beat by Neji more than he ever beat him. There was a power imbalance on the team. Neji and his natural born gifts were heavily outweighing him and Tenten's strengths. The two of them could fight Neji with all they had and he would still win.

And that year when the Chunin Exams came around, they all begged Gai-sensei to allow them to participate. He, standing strong, refused to accept their pleas and explained they were not ready. Looking back, Lee understood as between the three of them the only one who was actually chunin ready was Neji. Lee was barely mastering his taijutsu and Tenten could hardly last a battle.

But after a full year, with two Chunin Exams passing, they were ready. Tenten had increased her stamina and agility in battle. Lee was much stronger and far more capable now and Neji was...stronger and better with his family's jutsu. Gai-sensei had been proud of them and happily told them they were going to be submitted for the Chunin Exams being held in Konoha.

Lee felt excited about being a chunin. He would be given more responsibility and would be sent on better missions that would allow him to help more people and to test his abilities.

The freedom that would come with being a chunin was intoxicating to him and he waited for the day to become better than what he was.

He waited.

Chapter End Notes

omg, Lee is here. one of my favorites in this part of Naruto.

Sakura Eleven

Chapter Notes

here! Take this!
man Danzo...what a guy
can't wait to meet the sand siblings

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

They basically fell through the gates when they arrived.

Sakura was on her brother's back while he walked with the rest of the team to the hospital. Ren had insisted they get checked up before reporting to the Hokage, and Kakashi had folded and agreed. Kakashi, however, had dodged every question about his own health and had literally vanished when someone tried to check his chakra. The rest of them had gotten bland check-ups, Sasuke and Naruto were fine. An actual Medic-Nin had been called to look at Sakura and her hand.

They slowly bent her fingers, "Do they hurt?"

Sakura slowly shook her head, "Not as much."

They nodded, "It was hard ice?"

"Yes."

"Alright," They started writing something, "Definitely broken knuckles, specifically in your pinkie and ring finger. Although...you definitely sprained the rest of the hand, which is unsurprising. Everything could be healed without much fuss but the broken parts will have to be set to allow the bones to heal correctly." They looked at her, "Meaning you more than likely will have a crooked finger."

Sakura simply nodded, "Okay."

The Med-nin sighed and stood before turning to Kakashi who awkwardly stood in the corner, "Have you taught her to coat her muscles?"

Kakashi blinked, "Typically she does."

They sighed, "It's not just the muscles." They turned to Sakura and Ren who was standing next to her, "The reason she is not in more pain is because of her chakra, it's basically cutting off feeling from the knuckles and the reason her arm and wrist is fine is because of natural coating. When she hit the ice, everything but her hand was bracing for the hit, but hand's typically aren't coated very well because it can numb feelings. Thus most don't instinctively

coat it.” They had the whole time been fiddling with Sakura’s hand and finally turned it over and focused their hand over it.

A light green glow emitted from their palm onto her skin. Slowly it seemed to stitch together and fix itself. They pulled back and Sakura gaped at her hand before attempting to bend her fingers and wincing. They tutted, “I’ll have to manipulate the bone a little.” They tossed her a glove, “Put this on.”

Ren helped her slowly pull the glove up murmuring apologies when she flinched back. Kakashi had wandered over and looked over her hand. He hummed, “I’ve never seen anyone need to have gloves on when getting fingers healed.”

The Medic-nin glowered at her Sensei, “Well not all of us are perfect at everything. My specialty is soothing in-body illnesses and traumas. Hand.”

Sakura held it out, they moved the glove around the injured fingers and slowly unzipped the part by the broken bone. Finally it was set and the healer looked resigned but cupped her much smaller hand and began performing jutsu. The glow, now brighter, glowed between their hands.

“Not used to doing this?” Kakashi’s voice suddenly said right next to her, “I thought they would send a medic actually meant for doing this type of thing for her.”

The Medic’s face was getting more twitchy as Sensei continued to talk. Sakura flinched when she felt her fingers suddenly twitch.

Ren stared blankly at Kakashi-sensei, “There, someone is giving you attention.”

Kakashi huffed, “I’m just trying to make conversation.”

Instead of continuing listening to them, she turned to the Medic, “You’re not trained in this?”

They didn’t look up, “We are all trained in this but most of us have specialties or preferences in the work we like to perform. It takes many years to get good at just one thing and medical jutsu is a lot harder than people think.”

Sakura nodded and bit her lip, “But…why did they send you if this isn’t your specialty?”

They sighed, “Because we understaffed and the ones who can heal bones need to work with much more important people, like our ANBU or high-ranking jounin. And we don’t have enough ninja medics. Most of our people are civilians who can hand you an ice pack and tell you to have a nice day. They are invulnerable but we need more medics who can learn and use jutsu. And we haven’t had many of those since Princess Tsunade managed here.”

Sakura heard bells ringing, “Princess Tsunade?”

They smiled lightly, “The Last of the Senju, One of the Legendary Sannin and our best medic is Konoha history. She revolutionised how we work and maintained us. She set a new standard for Medic-nin.”

The glow finally faded and she pulled her hand close. She looked over it and slowly pulled the glove off. There was no pain in her hand anymore and all evidence of wounds was gone. Her pinkie however was slightly crooked, and she winced looking at it.

“Don’t worry about it,” The medic said, “It shouldn’t affect you at all when casting jutsu or fighting.”

“How is it?” Ren suddenly jumped in. She held her hand out and he looked it over. He snorted, “Imagine being unable to heal a broken bone.” The Medic stared at him and Sakura let out a loud giggle.

The Medic turned to Kakashi-sensei, “Make sure to teach her how to coat her hands, even if it’s uncomfortable. It would save her a lot of trouble.”

Kakashi nodded, “Of course Medic-san.”

They groaned and rolled their eyes, “See you soon, Kakashi.” They turned and left the room.

They turned to him, and she grinned, ““See you soon?””

He hummed, “It’s because I find myself very often here.”

“Cause of injuries,” Ren huffed.

She hopped off the table and left the room with the other two behind her talking to each other. Naruto and Sasuke had voted to wait outside. Neither wanted to be in the hospital for very long, for seemingly different reasons. She walked her way through the hospital heading for the front of the building when a voice called for her.

“Sakura-chan!” They called.

She turned and her brow furrowed, “Chouji?!”

The pudgier boy jogged over, he was dressed normally with a white apron covering him and he held a stack of papers. He smiled kindly at her, “What are you doing here?”

She blinked and held up her once damaged hand, “I had to get healed from our mission.”

He gasped, “Is everyone okay?” He turned slightly, “Hi Ren-san!”

She nodded, “Were good I was the most injured and I’m all healed up. What’re you doing here?”

He pointed at his chest where the hospital’s symbol sat, “I’m learning how to be a Medic-nin!”

She gaped at him, “Y-You’re learning to be a combat medic?!”

He nodded and pointed to Ren who stood there unassumingly, “He recommended I learn another skill! And I have good chakra control and my team needs a medic. So I’ve been

learning to be a combat Medic!”

She turned to Ren confused but he was refusing to look her way, she sighed and turned back to Chouji

“That's great!” She thought about it for a moment, “What...what is it like?”

He blinked his warm hazel eyes at her, “Well, they don't actually have classes or people teaching them. They kinda just have you intern and shadow people here. They give you assignments outside of working but right now you just have to learn everything and then you can start helping.”

She hummed, “What are you learning?”

He looked through his papers, “Mostly human anatomy—the Medic I work with is an infection and poison lady. She actually is really busy right now but I'm going to work with them more after the Chunin Exams.”

She bit her lip and looked at Kakashi before turning to Chouji, “Can I sign up?”

He blinked at her, “Yeah! You have to talk with the receptionist-sama, I will introduce you!” He turned and made his way and she hurriedly followed.

She could hear Ren and Kakashi quietly begin talking behind her but she kept her focus on Chouji as he rounded a corner and started talking to someone sitting there.

“—and this Sakura, she wants to learn medical jutsu! Do you have any openings?” She came to stand next to him.

She looked at her and Sakura felt judged and she swallowed. Chouji seemed to sense this, “She just got back from a mission with her team. She has the best chakra control of our entire graduating class truly.”

The receptionist looked more assured and began pulling from files behind them. She thumbed through papers and eventually held came to the end and sighed, “I don't think there will be any openings until after the Chunin Exams.”

She fiddled, “None?”

They shook their head, “This is pretty last minute and most slots are full or are busy and unable to take a student.”

“When is the fastest opening?” Chouji asked.

They sighed again, “The Medic Ninja are very busy and will be working for most of the Exams and we don't want you to have a civilian as a teacher because of how different they are to ninja medics.”

“What does she need to know?” Kakashi-sensei cut in, looking at them.

They paled when they saw him, “U-Um...its specific to the ninja—”

“Chouji,” Kakashi said, “What are you learning?”

“Human and brain anatomy,” He stated, “And a section on plants and animals that I was hoping Ino would help me with.”

“Poisons?” Kakashi asked.

He nodded, “But she said every medic should know the human and brain anatomy.”

“I will teach her the basics,” Kakashi stated, “Then after the Chunin Exams she can have a medic teacher.”

The receptionist nodded quickly, “Of course, I will make a note.”

“Good!” Kakashi explained, “Come on Sakura, we have to meet back up with the boys.”

She followed after him but not before turning around and waving to Chouji, “Bye Chouji! Thank you, see you soon!”

He waved after her as well, “See you soon! Nice to see you and Ren-san!”

She followed them to the boys and turned to Ren, “How does Chouji know you?”

“I uh...” He said elegantly, “I was forced to watch over his teams.”

“Was Asuma busy?” Kakashi asked.

“Mhm,” Ren replied, “For the Exams.”

“What Exams?!” Naruto said excitedly.

They all turned to him baffled. Sakura blinked, “Are you serious?”

He stuttered, “Kinda, I know they are the ‘Chunin Exams’ and that's how you become a chunin but...what are they?”

Kakashi sighed, “A series of dangerous tests genin takes to impress and become chunin. That's it.”

Naruto ‘*ohhed*’, and Sasuke sighed, “Let's report in.”

They made their way to the Hokage tower when Ren suddenly stopped. He turned to Kakashi-sensei, “I have to report to Gai-sensei.”

“Not the Hokage?” Kakashi asked.

“No,” Ren shook his head, “I got it from Gai, and he has to report it under my name.”

She narrowed her eyes on him, staring at her brother. He was avoiding going to the Hokage tower and turning his assignment.

Kakashi hummed, "Okay, don't tell Gai where I'm at. Tell him I died if you have to."

Ren snorted, "Sure." He ran off towards the training grounds. They stared after him and turned back to their Sensei.

He waved at them, "Let's continue."

They followed like little ducklings to the tower. The middle of the village, where jounin and ANBU report to the Hokage and his council and underlings. The Hokage liked to sit in on mission reports and thank and talk to people paying for missions.

They entered the busy building and made their way up the stairs and into one of the rooms. In the rooms were the Hokage, Iruka-sensei (who when the academy wasn't open worked here) and a few other members of this little council.

Iruka blinked at all of them, "Naruto, Sakura, Sasuke! You're back!"

Naruto nodded excitedly, "Yeah! We completed the mission and even defeated an evil villain! It was awesome!"

Iruka shook his head, "I was going to say you are all rather late."

The Hokage in his white and red robes leaned back, "Oh, calm down Iruka, I'm sure they had their reasons." His voice matched his appearance, old and grave.

They looked to Kakashi, who shrugged, "We got lost on the road of life."

Hokage-sama sighed and coughed on the pipe he was smoking out of, "Any other reason?" He looked between all of them, and she looked away when his old blurry eyes landed on her.

"No, Hokage-sama." Her and Sasuke said.

Naruto was shaking his own head, "Sorry old man, we were super tired! And we had to stop at the hospital before we came up here!"

They blinked at him but he kept up his perfect smile and Kakashi hummed, "Yes, that's quite accurate." Sensei pulled out a scroll and sat it on the large table in front of them. "This is our mission report."

"And your other member?" A dry, nasty voice asked. They turned to the old man sitting on the end. He was almost covered in bandage and scowling at Kakashi-sensei, "We were told that someone we sent would bring you back with haste. Not only did they fail but they aren't here."

"Danzo," Hokage said sharply, "They have their reasons."

“We do have our reasons,” Kakashi said calmly, “And if they hadn't shown up, at least one of us would have died and our allies in the battle would be dead.”

“And where are they?” Danzo snarked.

“I sent them away,” Sensei lied, “Their mission was not under my jurisdiction in the village. They have their own jounin they need to report back to.”

The man scoffed, holding his cane tighter.

Hokage-sama coughed and smiled kindly at them when they looked at him, “Well, I'm glad to see everyone back and safe with a completed C rank mission that swiftly became an A rank.”

Naruto smiled at him. Sakura kept herself close to Sensei and Sasuke, she felt uneasy in the council's presence. She didn't know how Naruto was so comfortable.

Kakashi bowed, “Thank you Hokage-sama, we are happy to say everything went well and my students gained battle experience.”

The Hokage nodded with his massive hat on his head, “Good, and for your efforts you will all be receiving an A rank pay not a C rank.”

They nodded and bowed thanking him. Iruka pulled out bags and pushed them out on the table. Naruto bounced up and grabbed it with a cheer. She went in front of Sasuke and humbly took the pay. Sasuke collected his without a word and they all stood behind their Sensei.

“I believe that is all the excitement you need for the next few weeks.” The Hokage said, holding eye contact with Kakashi, “Train and take D ranks for a while.”

Naruto instantly complained but she and Sasuke only nodded, even though they also didn't want to take any D ranks. She swallowed thickly standing, watching her Sensei and Great Hokage hold eye contact.

“Of course, my Hokage.” He bowed again and turned to them, “It's just going to be rest for today and tomorrow.”

They all complained at that one and the Hokage chuckled, “Don't worry kids you will have another chance for an adventure soon, I'm sure.”

They sighed but nodded and left the room, waving goodbye to Iruka-sensei and ignoring the council members watching them.

They left the room with sighs of relief and Sasuke turned to Kakashi and demanded answers, “Are you serious about no training?”

Kakashi put his hands in his pockets, “I'm afraid so, you all need rest and I need to deal with...stuff.”

Sasuke scoffed, “So we're going to waste time? We all feel fine, especially after Sakura got her hand healed.”

He simply eye-smiled at him, “ *I* cannot do anything about that, as I need to deal with a few things.”

Naruto suddenly turned to them, “Oh! We could all meet up and train with each other!”

She looked at him and smiled, “Sure! I would like to have some company anyway.”

Sasuke looked away, ‘Whatever.’

“Just say yes, Sasuke!” Naruto said, “We know you want to hang out with us!” He smiled teasingly.

“It's better than being alone,” She said absentmindedly.

He flinched and gritted out, “I'll be at the training ground tomorrow.”

She felt slightly bad and patted him on the shoulder as if to say sorry, he nodded to her.

“I'm glad you have all made plans,” Kakashi nodded, “Even though I won't be there, don't do anything stupid. And remember that you are surrounded on all sides by people who will give me updates.”

They laughed nervously and nodded. He looked over them and suddenly petted their heads, “See you in two days.” And he vanished into leaves.

She blinked and looked at them, “See you...see you tomorrow, I guess.”

Naruto nodded, “Yeah! I can't wait!”

“Till then,” Sasuke said dryly.

They turned around and went their separate ways.

Till tomorrow, she thought excitedly.

Chapter End Notes

I thought about changing Sakura with her medic status but I think it suits her and I can do so much with it. It really is super versatile

also

Chouji <3

Also also

thanks for 1k kudos, genuinely took me off guard. and 20k views that is just..amazing. I

might be rewriting some old chaps so might be updating those soon.
thank you guys <3

Technoblade Eleven

Chapter Notes

here's some more filler till the Chunk Exams happen!
aren't we glad to see techno back?!??
sorry these take so long, I have had friends visiting.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Techno found Gai training with his team.

They were going over survival strategies. More than likely preparing for the Chunin Exams coming up. He wondered what Gai would have them do for the paper section, perhaps he'd make them all read while doing laps.

He pushed past a bush and made his way closer, spying Tenten and Neji attempting to make a fire without jutsu. Lee was attempting to fish with his hands while Gai-sensei. He crept closer, waving off Neji and Tenten who spotted him.

He stood right behind the identical duo. He waited as Lee dove for fish and Gai cheered.

He spoke clearly, "Boo."

They screamed and spun around and attempted to attack him, but he was ready and had stepped back.

He could hear Tenten burst into laughter and he could bet Neji was shaking his head disappointedly at their childishness.

He waited a moment as they settled down. A small smirk was on his face as he spoke, "Hallo."

Lee was holding his chest and breathing exaggeratedly, but Gai-sensei had bounced back and was laughing loudly, "My precious youthful student! That was quite the joke! Of course if you were a real enemy I would have killed you instantly, but you are my student and I would never hurt my students!"

Lee nodded aggressively behind him as he listened to Gai's speech, "Of course Gai-sensei! How could we ever doubt your intuition?!"

Techno sighed listening to them compliment each other. He cleared his throat and they turned to look at him, "Mission is done."

Gai blinked and then nodded seriously, “Thank you for bringing this to me, sweet Ren. I will report this evening that you were successful.”

“How was it?!” A loud voice asked next to him. He turned to Tenten who was staring at him excitedly, “A solo mission? How did it go?”

“Yes! Ren-senpai,” Lee ignored the, ‘ *Don’t call me that* ’, and continued, “How was the mission out of the village?”

He sighed and turned to Neji, “Don't you wanna hear about this?”

Neji looked at him, “Yes, but I will not bother you with incessant questions.”

Tenten and Lee booed him before turning back to him, Techno felt a small smile creep up and he sighed, “What do you wanna know?”

They practically fell over each other to ask questions. Tenten wanting to know where he got the ‘ *giant legendary sword of the seven!* ’ and if she could borrow it and how the fights went. Lee was begging for details about the mission, ‘ *how long did it take?* ’ and ‘ *how hard was the marathon running?* ’ both happily dropped ‘ *wow!* ’ every now and then. He gladly regaled them with the story. During their story session Gai-sensei left to deliver the mission report and left Techno in charge.

Half-way through, Neji cut into asking what rank the mission ended up being. Techno guessed and told him the answer, “A rank.”

All of their jaws dropped and Neji turned away frustratedly, Tenten stuttered, “T-Those genin have an *A rank*?!”

Lee shook his head, “That is extremely dangerous, they don't have the proper training!—”

Tenten drooped, “The highest we have is a high ranking C. And now they have an *A rank*. ”

Lee turned to the despondent Tenten, “Do not fret Tenten! We are a well rounded and powerful team! Gai-sensei has made sure we are up to standard.”

She perked up a little, “Yeah! And I doubt their participating anyway. They are barely five months into being ninja! No way would their Sensei allow them to get thrown into something that could get them killed.”

Techno said nothing.

Lee nodded wisely, “No jounin should subject unprepared genin to the danger of the Chunin Exams, and...I see no reason to do it.” He shrugged his skinny shoulders, “Why would anyone put them in harm's way?”

Techno snorted slightly at Lee’s naive words only for Neji to be the one to speak up, “Because they are trying to rush ahead.”

They turned to him, he shook his head, "They want their students to get ahead in a life they aren't destined to, not if they can't fight their own battles." He turned to them with his pale eyes, "If these genin are supposed to chunin then they will be fine, if not, they die." Lee stood straighter, "That is a cruel way to see this Neji, these students don't deserve death just because their teachers have faith in them! It is no one's destiny to die!"

Man Lee is only slightly wrong

Don't tell him that!

Yeah!

I mean...destiny is clearly a thing.

Pfft how can you tell???

Rock Lee will probably do better this time around...

Man, I hope so. I hope Neji fights Gaara.

Lol

Tenten stared Neji down, "Neji, why do you have to always bring destiny up? There is no need for destiny to dictate all of your actions."

"It's not about it dictating our actions," Neji says, "It's about how we never had a choice to begin with."

The air was distinctly uncomfortable, and Techno shifted slightly. It wasn't crazy, after all, he was here seemingly being guided in ways he can't control. It did often feel like he had no control over his actions but that doesn't seem to be how destiny works.

"That's not how destiny works," He suddenly said and they turned to him "Destiny is about how our actions were always going to happen. We have control over our own actions and can change but that means it would always supposed to occur."

Neji narrowed his eyes slightly, "Then we are not actually in control of our actions. Destiny controls us, and we can't do anything to defy it."

Techno sighed, "Yes, if you believe in destiny then you believe we are all on set paths. I can't change that nor can you. Destiny is uncontrollable and unknowable. We are just puppets to our set paths." He shrugs, "It's your choice to be bothered by it and to not make your own decisions."

"Because I know my destiny!" He proclaimed, "I know...what I will do."

"Is it that way because you are making that choice to follow what you believe is your path or because you actually want to make that decision?" Techno squinted at him, "Besides I think what you believe in is fate. Not destiny."

Neji looked very bothered about what he was saying, "It doesn't matter. I know what I will do."

"What will you do?" Tenten asked.

He looked assured and lifted his chin, "I will become a chunin and prove I am the most capable in my clan and among the genin."

Lee walked in front of him, "Neji, while you are a genius and extremely capable, I will make it my *fate* to beat you and become chunin with you. I will prove to you we make our destiny and define our own fate. I, Rock Lee, will prove myself just as strong as you, Neji Hyuga."

Techno sighed listening to their declarations and turned to Tenten who looked annoyed at her now arguing teammates. He mouthed to her, '*you ?*' She furrowed her brow and came next to him, "What?"

"Are you ready for the Chunin Exams?" He asked.

She tucked her brown hair behind her ear, "I mean...you and Gai-sensei have both said I would do well."

He scoffed, "I asked if you're ready, not about us."

"I think so," She nodded after a moment, "I want to have more opportunities and learn higher rated jutsu and I would love to take better missions but uh..."

He raised a brow.

"I don't really know if I am going to be a good chunin I mean...they can man their own team and take solo missions and work without their genin team," She sighed, "I just hope I will be a good ninja for the village."

Clearly I haven't been pushing the anti-government ideas hard enough, He thought amused. He flicked his own hair back, "You'll be fine, Gai-sensei will watch over you and make sure you are okay."

She nodded, looking slightly more assured, "Yeah, and I would be able to boss Lee and Neji around!" She smiled slightly.

"Unless they become chunin as well," He stated.

She groaned, "I know! And the chances of Neji becoming one is almost certain and Lee...is strong and really nice but I don't know what he will do without Gai-sensei. He's like his dad at this point."

"I still think they are related," He joked dryly.

She laughed lightly, "Yeah and...Lee can kinda lose focus on other things. He might become obsessed with doing something else, like beating Neji, and forgets to actually try to impress

the Hokage.” She shrugged, “Then there's me. I don't stand out at all, and my skills can be really particular and I-I just want the team to come together.”

He coughed, “Nerd.”

She glared at him playfully, “I'm not the one who tried to leave the village to protect your sister.”

“Slander,” He scoffed, staring after the upset Lee and the pompous Neji, “Should I separate them?”

She pursed her lips, “Probably.”

He sighed, staring after them before lying back in the grass and looking up at the sky. The sky was a beautiful blue with birds flying around. He sighed and briefly closed his eyes.

Are they on their way?

Yep!

Those three are coming already?

Damn that was fast.

Gaara is on his way...

Blood-brother????

That is not what that means.

B-but he hears voices...who want blood...

Bro that's just the one tails lmao

We shall see them soon either way.

fun

Chapter End Notes

I just gotta say, about last chaps discussion.

1. that character was just a random filler character who I couldn't be bothered to give any importance to, thus they are they.
2. characters identities are important but I will not note it unless they are a main character. ie me writing Haku as gender neutral without really acknowledging it.
3. It doesn't matter if their is a LGBT character in the story, dreamsmmp is a pretty friendly place and I enjoy that environment. Thus my the characters will have that

influence even if it from a different fandom. And I like interesting gender identities for main characters thus I will probably acknowledge via pov.

Thanks for coming to my ted-talk

I hope no fighting occurs because of this story as it is mostly a comfort story.

Sorry I had to do this but I don't like ignoring it. <3 Have a good day/night.

Hinata One

Chapter Notes

omg Hinata sweet child

I love sad Hinata, she deserves a great character arc! I hope it does her justice.

uhh angst tho.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Hinata was unseen.

No matter how much her clan could see and view, she vanished. Her presence was never acknowledged or appreciated. Hinata was a blank face in her clan's pictures, a fill-in for what other people saw. ‘*The First Born*’, ‘*The Heir Apparent*’, ‘*The Daughter of the Clan Head*’ she doesn't think anybody actually knows who she is. *Lady* Hinata or *Princess* Hinata, never *Hinata* . She isn't actually there, she's just a stand-in.

Her sister makes it harder sometimes. No matter how much she loved her, she felt the pain of not being her. Not as strong or fierce or confident. She felt wasted being the firstborn, Hanabi would do far better (*Or so everyone says*) . She was a failure in their eyes.

Going to the academy was a quiet blessing. As she was no longer alone in her own family but she was too shy to actually talk to anyone. However being away from her family was a relief, she didn't have to hold herself to their standards. But she still felt the pressure especially when she interacted with the other clan kids.

Ino was the most confident girl she'd ever seen. Beautiful and proud of her clan and heritage. She'd taken to being the clan heir swiftly, even being a girl. She was inspirational to Hinata, even if she could never dare approach her. Her friendship with Sakura Haruno was sweet and made Hinata wish she could join them.

Shino was the closest she had to a friend. They were both quiet and sat in the back. She knew his clan head as well, his own father. He was a tall, silent, intimidating man who once handed her a butterfly to calm her down. He seemed calm and thoughtful, as was Shino. Although he was not shy, only unwilling to speak. He never hesitated to say what he thinks. Even if it felt cruel. She was pleased when they were put on the same team.

Chouji seemed nice. She did not know him much but he had always been kind to her and had even offered her snacks whenever they were paired together, which she, blushing, always accepted. She had seen his parents in their restaurants when they rarely went. They seemed to be warm and friendly people. Chouji mostly stayed with his friends and didn't leave his best friend's side much.

Shikamaru was...frightening. She knew it wasn't rational, but his eyes seemed as strong as a Hyuga's. She knew it was a Nara trait; their intelligence and keenness. They had a groundedness her father appreciated. However most of the time he slept, which was far less frightening than when he was awake. He mostly stayed with Chouji, rarely interacting with others unless told to. She felt a companionship when she saw his frustration in dealing with some of their classmates.

Kiba was, strangely, nice. He seemed rough compared to the others. Dirty and shaggy with wild curls and slitted eyes. He liked to play pranks and brawl when given the opportunity. But she remembers a time in which they had to fight and he was kind, holding back and lifting her up and apologising when he knocked her down. He had left her a plucked flower on her desk and let her pet Akamaru. She was surprisingly optimistic to be on his team. Especially knowing he wasn't his clan heir, it was his older sister.

Sasuke Uchiha. The...heir? Or head? It was a question she once thought of. He was her age and has an older brother, but he is the only Uchiha in Konohagakure—but he had none of the power of a clan head. She had concluded he was neither until he was older and able to assert his space. He was sad, she concluded, and angry. His presence was a black cloud to her family. The Uchiha were their direct competitor and thus when they died they won, but they were killed by a member of the main family and heir to their clan. It left a haunting story for the Hyuga.

Technically they held no other clan kids but...

Naruto Uzumaki.

It was a clan name. A powerful one, but here was a bright orphan boy with more determination in him than any of them combined. She noticed him quickly. He was sweet and small, barely taller than her. He was bright in a dark village. An inspiration when there were blank canvases.

She had a small crush on this bright, loud and desperate boy. He deserved the good, and kind. A family who would hug him and tell him they were proud and acknowledge him. (*maybe it's because she wanted that too*).

She found herself chasing him around. Wanting him to turn around and smile; to invite her to play his games or prank their Sensei. She would hide behind trees and wait for something, courage or luck. She waited for him to see her, to have a friend who would...hug her and tell her they were proud and *acknowledge her existence*. They were both alone and she figured they could make each other less alone.

But he wasn't like her. He didn't stutter or falter under pressure. He didn't blush if he made a mistake, or cry when hit too hard. He could talk to people and ignore those who were cruel. They weren't the same, but she wanted to be.

She wanted to talk to others and swell up with pride when praised. She wanted to fix her mistakes and stand up when brought to her knees. She wanted to fight back when called cruel words or looked down on by her father and clan. She wanted to be like him.

But instead she was Hinata Hyuga. Lady Hinata and Princess Hinata, the-perhaps-not-heir. It felt lonely being her, and it hurt not to be able to just be Hinata.

Then they were assigned genin teams.

It felt like a dream—passing the assessment and becoming a ninja. Her teammates were Kiba-kun and Shino-san. The two boys she liked the most (*besides Naruto-kun*) were her teammates with the beautiful Kurenai Yuhi as their Sensei. She was a first time sensei, coming straight to teaching after her promotion. A Genjutsu Mistress with exceptional recon and infiltration skills. Hinata was sure she'd be a fantastic teacher.

The team had passed Kurenai-sensei's test with much difficulty. She had basically left them on a scavenger hunt with multiple traps. Kiba-kun was able to track down each clue and Shino-san was useful in being able to deduce the traps and how to defeat them.

Hinata had felt useless until Kurenai-sensei had praised her for her capable and strong jutsu's in the fights. Quickly using kai's and breaking past barriers. Hinata had gone very red and couldn't even look up at her words.

The D ranks had been a relief. She worried they would be thrown into the deep end of fighting and hurting for the village. Instead they had simple things, things she never did but was easy to pick up. Painting houses, weeding gardens, and catching cats and dogs. It was easy and she was happy, even if her teammates were not.

The training was going well as well. Kurenai-sensei had been teaching her some easy chakra exercises and getting all of them to master their academy jutsu's. Something all of them rarely used due to their clans prevalent jutsu.

The relief she felt dissipated when the Chunin Exams came up. Kurenai-sensei had told them ahead of time she would be signing all of them up. She believed they would benefit from being chunin and having access to more private jutsu. She also thought they would all be okay and would get a taste of freedom and battle experience.

Hinata appreciated Kurenai-sensei's hope but she heavily doubted it. At least for her. Shino-san was no doubt chunin level. He was calm and collected, while being powerful and strong. He would make a great chunin.

Kiba-kun was also strong but he was slightly childish. He was emotional and baited easily. But his taijutsu was good and he was strangely good with genjutsu.

Mostly because she knew who was going to be there. Someone who she could never look in the eyes.

Neji Hyuga.

Her first cousin from her fathers side. Her father's twin brother's son. Her older cousin and... main protector.

She would never admit she was scared of him. Because she wasn't, she didn't want to flinch when they were in the same room. But the anger and almost hatred he looked at her with, it filled her with an aching sadness.

Because she was the cause of it. Her and her father and his father and his. The Main Branch of the Hyuga Clan, they were to blame. The ancestors who were fine living like this. With cousins subservient to them, *slaves* of them.

The Side Branch of the Hyuga Clan. The servants of the clan. The ones without the privileges and left with scrapes and death. And Neji has been left with nothing.

The Cursed Seal.

A jutsu of her clan. A *stain* of their history still in use. A way to ensure other members stay subservient to the Main Family. A slave's shackles.

She felt sick thinking about it.

Only in death will it be released. And the release removes the users Byakugan. Leaving them with nothing.

Nothing.

Just like her. They are left with nothing at all.

But she still loved Neji. Because he deserved love and someone who wouldn't look down at him, and she had no one like that for her so she will be that for him (*and because she is the reason he received it*) .

She hoped to make him proud. Not her father or her aunts or uncles, or any of the elders. He deserved to have someone win for him.

Just like her.

Hinata prayed and hoped the Chunin Exams were exactly what everyone wanted. A learning experience, a preparation, or a way to get ahead and defy *destiny*.

Or to prove yourself to those who won't look back to see you hiding behind a tree waiting for them to pull you with them.

She wanted to prove herself.

More than anything.

For Neji.

And even for Naruto-kun.

They deserved for her to do her best.

(And maybe she deserves it too) .

Chapter End Notes

bro the Hyuga clan is fucked up.

I always thought it was weird they ignore it like they aren't using slavery.

like...wtf??? Hinata deserves to be a good clan head who breaks the mold.

Sakura Twelve

Chapter Notes

sorry this chap is kinda rushed
but it has plenty of emotions!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Sakura woke the next morning to books and scrolls next to her window.

When she saw them she made the assumption Ren left them for her. Perhaps because she enjoyed the last book he gave her he left her other things to read. That was immediately proved false when she opened the top book.

Inside was a paper tucked between the pages. The handwriting was too sloppy to be Ren's practised work. It said:

I believe this will be more than enough to get you started.

-Love, your beloved Sensei.

The book was about human anatomy and all its important pieces. The next was even thicker and over the brain and psychology. Another was over the chakra system and how it works with both. The first scroll looked brand new and she carefully unrolled it.

Inside was a complex sealing jutsu. She ran her hand over it reverently. Sealing jutsu were rare in Konoha and this was heavily detailed. She set that one aside carefully.

The last scroll was also a sealing jutsu. But this one was old and worn. Well loved, for she could see someone's handprint ingrained in the paper. She wondered where Kakashi-sensei had found such a loved sealing jutsu.

She searched for another note and found one at the bottom.

Don't use it without me there, both are for medical-jutsu.

-You know who i am.

She grinned reading the notes and stood to change.

She chose comfortable, grey pants and a red over a plain pink shirt. She slid her shoes on and tucked her necklace under her shirt. She grabbed the scrolls and went downstairs.

She saw her mom writing at the table. She looked around, "Where is Ren?"

Her mother gestured back, "He's with your father at the stall, they are setting up before people start coming in."

Sakura bit her lip, "How long ago?"

"They left at sunrise," Mom said consoling, "They should be back anytime now."

"Ren probably went to train," Sakura replied, "Dads probably running the shop."

"What did you need him for?" She asked, turning around and looking Sakura in the eyes.

"My Sensei left me some scrolls to use," She shifted her arm, "I wanted to know if Ren could read or understand what they say."

"What do they say?" Her mothers brow furrowed, "Are they in another language?"

Sakura walked over and sat next to her, "They are sealing."

Her mother held the new one, "Sealing jutsu are rather rare. He must have just bought this one."

She nodded and held the worn one, "I just wonder where he got this one from."

Her mother breathed in, "He probably has a friend who had it. It looks like it hasn't been used in a while."

Sakura sighed and tucked them back under her arm, "I'll ask him when he gets home. I'm meeting with my teammates at noon."

"But you just came back from a mission," Her mother protested, "You don't need to train, you need to rest."

Sakura stopped and opened her mouth, "I'm not-not really meeting to train. They're my friends, it's like...hanging out."

Her mother blinked in surprise but slowly nodded, "Alright, but take it easy. Oh! And Ino came around asking to see you while you were gone. I told her you would see her when you get back."

Sakura felt dread crawling up her back, she forgot to tell Ino-chan she left on a mission, her voice was slightly shaky when she answered, "A-Alright mom! I'll go see her today!"

Her mother snorted, "See that you do, I don't want to find you dead."

She nodded quickly and rushed back up the stairs. She carefully put her scrolls away and grabbed the top book on the body and ran out.

She called back to her mother as she left the house, "Bye! See you for dinner!"

A fading, "Be safe!" And she was running to their training ground.

She shouldered past the busy people in the streets. Her book was tightly held to her chest, as she ran. The streets being so busy was no doubt the result of all the new people entering for the Exams. Genin coming to participate and show off their skills, jounin coming with their genin teams and to watch for any students they could work with and civilians coming to watch the games and see who their new ninja will be. It was great for business and was always a busy time. Every six months it would take place in one of the nations and in their villages.

She arrived at their training ground with a sigh. It was the same as they left it, green grass with the memorial stone at the back. She sat on the ground and pulled open her book to wait for the others to arrive.

She only got through five pages when Naruto threw himself next to her with a huff. She stared at him and sighed loudly, "What's wrong?"

"My landlord! That's what!" He said, sounding upset, "After I payed'em with the money for our mission, they told me they would be raising the price on my apartment! As if it's worth what they want! So now all the money I saved was used to pay for my rent!" She gaped, "T-That's awful! You used all the money we got!" *That was a load of money, how much did they raise it to?!*

He nodded hastily, "Yeah! But I also had to buy groceries and I used the rest of my money getting new ninja gear. So now I'm flat broke!"

How much are his groceries?!? "Th-That was enough money to *buy* an apartment and still have some leftover, how is it all gone?!" She asked bewildered.

He went slightly pink, "I-I don't know! Things are just expensive." He defended himself.

She was still confused, "Are you at least okay for the next few days?"

He shrugged, "Probably, unless I need to get my apartment fixed again, then I should be okay until we start taking missions again."

"Fix something again?" She sighed, "How often do you break stuff?"

He looked down, "I mean...I don't try to, it just breaks all the time."

Light footsteps came up to them and they both looked up. Sasuke was dressed the same as most days but today he held some items in his hand. He looked over them and raised a skinny brow, "Why so down?"

Naruto let out a loud groan, "Money."

Sasuke scoffed lightly, "Idiot."

He groaned again and laid back and looked up at the sky. Sakura smiled at him before turning to Sasuke, "His landlord is being mean."

Sasuke sat in front of them with a, "Hn."

“They raised the price on his apartment and now he has no money.”

Sasuke pursed his lips, “ *That* apartment? It's a dump.” He looked at Naruto, “You should move out.”

Her jaw dropped, “They raised the price on a *dump*?”

Naruto sighed and covered his eyes, “It's the only place that will let me stay.”

She and Sasuke looked at each other, she knew what he meant. He could afford to move out but no other place would let him stay, was it because he was a prankster? Or because he's an orphan or just that he's a troublemaker? Either way, it was unfair.

“That's stupid,” She proclaimed loudly, “You would be a fine tennant and you don't even prank people that much anymore.”

Naruto looked a tad uncomfortable but smiled thankfully at her, “Thanks Sakura but...it might not just be that.”

Sasuke looked away from her when she looked at him and she felt slightly out of place, “What do you mean?”

Naruto just smiled, “Aw y'know, we all know i'm not very...likeable.”

“Yes you are,” She defended, “You can be loud and kind of annoying but you are also really loyal and nice.”

He went pink and murmured, “Thanks Sakura-chan.”

She sighed and looked at Sasuke and decided to let it go, “What do you have?”

He shook out of it and sat it in front of them, “These are...they are some tools we had at the c-compound.”

Naruto sat up and shuffled closer, “Like what?”

He shrugged, leaned over and pulled out a short cylinder handle. He kept pulling and all of their eyes widened when he pulled it completely out.

Sakura opened her mouth and closed it, “Is that...?”

“This is a whip,” Sasuke stated factually, “Hn.”

Naruto burst into loud raucous laughter, “Why-Why do you have a *whip*?”

Sasuke sat it to the side, she noted his ears were turning red, “Must have been someones.”

Sakura reached in and pulled something random out. She pulled out a light wooden object, with some stretchiness to it.

“A slingshot!” Naruto laughed, “Man these are weird!”

Naruto dug into the mystery box and pulled another. He almost fell over trying to pick it up, he grit his teeth and set it on the grass. A giant bat-like object sat on the ground. They blinked at it and Naruto started, "Um...that things really heavy. I don't see how it could be useful."

They dug through the box for more. Pulling out different weapons and even armour pieces, such as arm guards and gloves. Everything had the Uchiha Clan's Uchiwa fan on it. Finally they came to the bottom of the box.

Eventually she turned to Sasuke with a raised brow, "Why did you bring this?"

He looked uncomfortable as he separated another item, "I-I was cleaning and found the box. I've...never seen this before and I didnt want to go through it..."

"He wanted our input!" Naruto burst out, "He wanted our help!"

Sasuke scowled at him, "Shut up, idiot!"

Sakura continued digging through the items, "What are you going to do with all of these?"

He grimaced, "I was going to either get the symbol off and have them sold or cleaned and polished and put away for...encase."

She scrunched her nose, "Like...having kids encase?"

He looked very unsure, "That's...the only way to revive my clan."

"Why are you planning so far ahead...?" Naruto asked.

Sakura shifted, "It's not really too far...most clans heirs from what i've seen are married and having kids before they're even twenty."

Naruto gaped at her, "Wha-at?"

She nodded solemnly, "Yeah, like Kiba sister, Hana, she turned seventeen a little bit ago and the entire clan has been asking her when she is going to have kids."

"Is she-is she even married?" Naruto stuttered.

She shook her head, "She's not even in a relationship! They just assume she's going to do what her mom did and have kids by herself for the clan."

Sasuke who had been silent throughout this spoke quietly, "He would be engaged at this point."

They turned to him and Naruto braved the question, "Who?"

"That man..." Sasuke was pale, "He's sixteen already... *Itachi Uchiha.*"

Naruto turned to Sakura and whispered, "His...brother?"

She nodded and scooted closer to Sasuke, "I'm sorry."

Naruto also scooted closer, "Yeah! It's okay! He's not here and we're all together!" Sakura felt her lips tug up, "Yeah...it's just us."

"But it's not," Sasuke grit out, "He's here, always. Standing over my shoulder and judging my every move. He's behind every person's gaze when they see me. He's in every ninja's stance when they talk to me. He's..." He paused looking pained, "He's in every empty house and room at the compound. Every missing person, every blank bed and every *grave*. It's all him, his and his alone. And until-until I kill him, he will never *leave*."

They stared at their shaking and grieving friend. Naruto leaned over and wrapped his arms around him. Sasuke froze and seemed unable to move. Sakura sat still, sadness and guilt wrapping around her. A hand suddenly grabbed hers and she was pulled into the hug.

Naruto gripped them both close and sighed loudly, "You know...I sometimes wonder who my parents are."

They both fell back and stared at Naruto who was staring at Sasuke, "I wonder if they gave me up or died or if they lost me and are still trying to find me. Most of the time I imagined some nice people showing up to adopt me. They would be nice and kind and hug me and help me with my work. And I would protect and love them no matter *what*."

Naruto smiled ruefully, "But that never happened and now...I don't mind not having parents with me now. Because...I have people who I want to protect and care for. I have you guys and Kakashi-sensei and Iruka-sensei. That..." Tears gathered for a moment, "I think that's enough."

Naruto reached over and hugged the still Sasuke, "Even if he is looking over your shoulder, we will always be right in front of you."

Sakura looked away feeling hollow in her chest, she felt a strange guilt. She wasn't like them, she has her family and she's never lost them. She's never been the pariah of the village nor the martyr. And she had judged them so cruelly. Her eyes watered.

Sasuke's hands slowly pushed Naruto away and he breathed in and out, "I keep...I keep thinking about something Kakashi-sensei told me."

They looked at him and Sakura hastily wiped her tears and asked, "W-What?"

"That I don't have to...do what Itachi said. That I have people who will care for me." Sasuke swallowed, "I didn't...I didn't believe him."

"Believe it," Naruto said earnestly, "Even if you are annoying and a total jerk and sometimes really mean for no reason, you're my friend."

Sasuke sat in disbelief staring at Naruto. Sakura swallowed and spoke quietly, "I'm sorry."

They turned to her and Naruto looked confused, "What for Sakura?"

"I used to look down on you both," She bowed her head, "I never considered what you were going through. Naruto, I thought you were annoying and loud and...stupid. I hated how you

would disrupt class and make Iruka-sensei mad, but you are not annoying or loud or stupid. Please forgive me.”

He blinked confused but shook his head rapidly with his cheeks lightly pink, “Ah! No! Sakura! It's alright! I guess I was a little...loud. But I didn't really notice because you were so,” His cheeks flamed, “Nice.”

She shook her head with wet cheeks, “I was just being polite. But you didn't deserve those thoughts. And Sasuke...I'm sorry for being judgemental. I never considered the pain you were going through, or how we affected you.”

He grimaced, “I dont—I dont want your pity, I want your respect.”

She wiped her face with a nod, “I want to respect both of you and...I want you to see me as strong.”

Naruto looked at her concerned, “What do you mean?”

“I don't know what you two are going through,” She said and they flinched, “I don't think anyone does but I don't want that to keep us from being teammates or friends. I want to be as strong as you two and never left behind.”

“Oh, Sakura!” Naruto shook his head as he leaned over to hug her, “We could never leave you behind! Without you here, we probably would be trying to kill each other.”

She smiled, “But you get along so well.”

Sasuke scoffed, “This moron is only tolerable because you make him seem so tame in comparison.”

She gaped, “And you make Naruto look like the most respectful person on the planet!”

“Uh, guys?”

“It's not my fault you are more annoying than the most annoying person I've ever met!”

“Seriously, guys?!”

“And you are the rudest!”

“Guys!?!”

The rest of the day was easy. Jumping between training partners was easy, mostly because Sasuke ironically had to sit out. He was banned from using his Sharingan extensively, so she and Naruto fought mostly.

It was more even then she expected. He would spam Shadow Clones, and she would use her taijutsu to mow them down and attack Naruto. He was not as good as taijutsu and unless he

overwhelmed her; she found herself actually winning.

When Sasuke did fight with her, it was often even. His taijutsu was more refined, but her control was more fluent. She would lure him around and go for unexpected spots. He would use advanced ninjutsu against her. But they fought very little.

Naruto and Sasuke were interesting. They happily went at each other in the *dumbest ways*. Neither seemed to strategize and instead just attacked one another with reckless abandon. They seemed happy and she got to finish her book. It was a win-win. (*Although Naruto looked a little singed and there were definitely some bruises on Sasuke*).

When they trained altogether, she noticed how fluid they were now. After the mission and their heart to heart to heart, their trust was stronger than ever. They matched movements and strengths. Their friendship was truly apparent.

They left each other as the sun started to set. Waving to one another as they went home (*She briefly had a thought about where Sasuke stayed*) . Her parents had sat down with food, and she asked where Ren was.

She had raced upstairs to ask him about her new scrolls. She opened the door to find him digging through his books, not pausing when she came in.

“What?” He asked, bent down pushing books aside.

“Do you know anything about fuinjutsu?” She asked.

He paused before shaking his head, “Not really—it's pretty ancient.”

She sighed, “I got two scrolls from Sensei—there related to medical jutsu but I don't know what they say.”

He snorted, “Why not just wait for Kakashi?”

“Ren!” She said.

He sighed, “Do you want to ask Chat?”

She thought about it before saying, “Do-Do they know anything about this?”

He sighed before sitting flat and seeming to doze for a few minutes, finally he turned to her, “One should just be a regular Medic exercise with fish. The other...” He hummed, “It's hard to say; Chat thinks it's a personal item, and they don't know those unless the actual people who knew about it speak and...they aren't talking.”

She nodded, “Do they have a guess?”

He shrugged, “If it's Kakashi-sensei's and its old and its fuinjutsu...they have a few guesses.”

“So I guess I'll learn about it later,” She said, nodding.

“Yeah,” He sat up, “Tell me what it does—Chat’s curious, they hate not being all-knowing.”

She smiled, “Alright, goodnight.”

He waved her away.

Sakura quickly changed and ran downstairs to eat. Quickly eating through the cooked fish with gusto. She went back to her room soon after that. She quietly went through her new items and stopped on the old one. It was wrinkled but used. Meaning it probably would be either extremely useful or very needed. She wondered which.

Her bed bounced when she laid on it and she relaxed into her covers with a sigh. Happy to be home with her boys taken care of and her family busy. She closed her eyes glad to be back.

Chapter End Notes

next chap! Next chap! woop woop

Kakashi Seven

Chapter Notes

broooo why did now one tell me I fucked up Karachi's tittles???
I had two twos
ehh its fixed now
so enjoy kakashi being kakashi

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Kakashi is very relieved that his kids are training. He was worried the Hokages words would dissuade them but it hasn't. If anything it pushed them closer; perhaps *Danzo* had something to do with it.

The presence of the power hungry man had set every instinct off. The old man had intruded into their mission homecoming and Kakashi suspected why.

He had a few ideas, mostly he guessed Danzo wanted to see the Last Uchiha and the Nine-Tailed Jinchuuriki. He also guessed he wanted to see Ren.

Ren has become an open secret to the rest of them. The Hokage no doubt knows who Ren is, and what he's capable of (*He and Gai report to Shikaku but he reports to the Hokage*) . But the Hokage has seemingly let the matter rest, but more importantly, he lets Ren keep his identity hidden from the Council and Danzo.

Danzo was a power-hungry snake and no doubt furious that he couldn't get his hands on Gai's student. He knew what Danzo wanted, a powerful young teen—a brainwashed youth. He was happy to let Ren run from the Hokage, because it kept him from the old war-hero.

He was however not happy with the Hokage. The Hokage's secret messages were obvious to him, and he heavily disagreed with what he wanted. The Third Hokage wants him to wait for the Chunin Exams, because he wants him to let his team participate. He wants him to say in front of all the other jounin teachers that he believes the Konoha's Jinchurki and Last Uchiha are chunin fit. In only four months.

He knows what they actually want; they want progress. Progress and to show them off. They want others to come and view their *prized pupils*. They want enemies to tremble at the future of Konohagakure. They want allies to invest in their new soldiers.

But they weren't ready.

Of his three, perhaps Sakura could be ready if he trained her hard enough, but he doubted she would be emotionally ready at that point. Maturity and growth is just as important as power and strength. And she was still childish and petty, like many girls her age could be. Sasuke

and Naruto were nowhere near emotionally ready. Sasuke suffered from heavy trauma and arrogance and thirst for power—he's not even close to mature. Naruto, while acting fast and understanding, was harsh when faced with people when they didn't like him. He was childish and mean with people, he judged people too quickly and was far too emotional. Both ran by their hearts before their heads.

He knew Gai would be having his team participating, as would Kurenai. Kurenai truly had a capable team, the Aburame are practically always prodigies, the Inuzuka are hard-workers who have nin-dogs, and the Hyuga are the Hyuga. It's a strong team that seems to get along well with proper teamwork. He has no doubt they will do well—or at least, live.

He had no idea about Asuma and his Ino-Shika-Cho team. It was split, the Akimichi are slow at getting promoted, as they are strong but typically the non-violent type. The Nara's are always smart but sometimes lack any motivation to try. The Yamanaka are smart and emotionally intelligent, but sometimes lack the strength to be promoted.

Truly he feared for his team. The Chunin Exams were not just a sit down and writing test; it was a bloody trial with fights and challenges. People die during the Exams, some get maimed and are never able to fight again. It was a high risk, high reward scenario, and he was not ready to bet his team.

He knew parts of this Exam. He knew the written test was typically done by T&I as per standard, their skills in manipulation and intelligence and the mind was used to syke out any cowards. This year they were using the Forest of Death, meaning a survival challenge was imminent. The last was always a public display of power. A fight against jounin or chunin. A tournament between the genin. The order could change between villages.

The fear of them dying was real, specifically the fear of *Sakura* dying is real. They wouldn't let Sasuke die, let alone *Naruto* .

Mostly he worried for them as a team. They have just gotten close, working well and trusting one another. The Exams tested team's for weak spots. He'd seen it rip teams apart just as much as people. He wanted them to trust each other just as much as he wanted them to live.

Maybe that is why he gave Sakura Rin's scroll. The scroll had been made by Kushina for Rin when her husband expressed concern for his student. Kushina had been giddy when told what Rin needed. A scroll to imprint someone's body on to it. You applied that person's blood onto it with your thumb and an entire diagram of someone appears, from their nervous system to their skeleton. It was very complex but extremely useful for learning how to treat the body.

He can still see Kushina working day and night to try to put it all together. She had thought it would be useful for other people. She wanted to make as many as possible and give them to the hospital. She was determined to help people, and she wanted to understand everything she could about chakra and the system, and why it was the one thing that did not appear when used (~~Maybe it's because she had something forcefully intertwined with her system that she could never get rid of~~). She had wanted her own genin teams for as long as he knew her. Begged to let her teach a team her old country's ways. After her home was wiped out many of their practices vanished and she wanted to pass them down (~~Maybe that was why she wanted kids, because they refused to give her someone to intrust her secrets too~~).

But now they will never know. Because she is dead. Her powerful skills with fuinjutsu and ninjutsu were lost to death. Her secrets were now with her body. The body that was out at sea as per her instructions. With her people and...her husband had gone with her. Letting his body and any of its secrets wash away.

It had been the hardest thing he'd ever done. Kakashi remembered that day, arguing all through the night on what to do with their bodies. The Third argued ~~Minato~~ her husband should be buried with the others of his calibre. Join them in the ground, let his secrets seep into the Earth and sprout again. But Kakashi knew better. They wanted peace in death. And if they were buried here, they would never be at peace, not when their bodies could be easily found. Unlike the First Hokage, everyone knew where they buried the Hokages.

Now only one Hokage rested under their grounds. The Second, who had wanted to be buried with his fellow soldiers. The Third wanted to rest there as well. But the Fourth and his wife slept among the open waves.

Kakashi was tempted to let the ocean take him as well when he died. Throw his body into the water and let him find his old teacher among the fish. But he knew where he would go, he would go where his ancestors died. Resting among the wolves and lightning.

He used to think about his death a lot. Planned for it, waited for it, anticipated it. It was a dark time in his life. A long time of nothing. Then the Hokage made him start taking genin teams. Granted, he failed all of them, but it forced him to interact with his fellow jounin. Forced him to work under Shikaku and his subordinates. Made him plan with the other teachers and talk.

It wasn't as dark when he wasn't living in the shadow. But that didn't chase away the demons still following him; they were just easier to deal with. Less death and more teaching. His team gave him a hope he never expected. Sometimes they hurt him with how familiar and comforting they were (*Except Naruto—he was too familiar*).

And now they could die.

He swore his heart had stopped when they encountered Zabuza, but he was still sure he could protect them. But in this situation, he couldn't protect them, not unless they asked him too.

He just had to sit and watch, be ready to step in when needed but also be forced to hold back because of the Hokage and his council.

He dreaded the Chunin Exams and truly hoped they flunked out before any fighting happened.

Maybe then his team will get a chance for next time.

Chapter End Notes

Technoblade Twelve

Chapter Notes

I have studied the world of Naruto harder then I ever studied the real world
Seriously I had like 8 tabs of Naruto world building facts just for this chapter

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Techno noticed a tenseness around the village.

He figured the Chunin Exams beginning in a matter of days had something to do with it. Other ninja from villages have begun to show. He noticed a lack of anyone from the Land of Lightning or Earth (*He assumed the wars that occurred only a decade or two ago had something to do with it*). There were an abundant amount of fire country ninja—no doubt feeling confident with the tournament taking place in their biggest village—plenty of smaller village ninjas that surrounded Fire Country showed Stone, Grass and Rain-Nin. He saw ninja from villages he's never even heard of (*What is a 'Sound Village'?*) .

The only ninja that were missing that made sense were the Wind-Nin. They were the Ninja who were almost guaranteed to show, after all the two Kages had an apparent good relationship; However they lived the furthest away and might not even show until right before the Exams started.

He saw the effects of the Exams on every team he saw. He saw it in Kakashi taking easy, almost boring missions. He sees it in Gai turning training into a hellscape that only he and Lee enjoy. He even spotted in with the genin team he watched over.

He saw the three of them while he was manning the shop. Handing out and promoting their work. People had been coming in and out buying items with little leaf patterns (*Basically merchandise*) and sweaters due to the cooling weather.

They were all walking out of an Akimichi Barbeque with their Sensei. He was tall with tan skin and a thick beard and a cigar hanging out of his mouth. He seemed relaxed in comparison to the three who were carrying giant bags of different foods. Chouji had two on his back, Shikarmaru and Ino were struggling with one. Their Sensei was keeping a close eye on them, talking to them all the while.

Later he saw Ino again, this time she had found him. Or more accurately she had shown up at their house looking for Sakura. She was apparently furious that Sakura and her team had left without saying goodbye to her (Or that one Kiba kid).

Mostly he sat in the living room watching as they yelled at each other then hugged.

“You can't do that!” Ino yelled at her, “I was worried and you just vanished and I heard from Chouji that you were in the hospital?! I didn't even know you left the village!”

“I didn't mean to!” Sakura screamed back, “I'm sorry! It was supposed to be only a few days!”

“So?!” Ino argued, “Between the three of us, you were the first to leave the village and you didn't tell us?!”

Sakura's face twitched and Ino locked onto it, looking even more furious she ground out her next words, “Kiba knew you were gone?!”

“I didn't tell him *like that!*” Sakura burst out, “We didn't meet up and talk without you! I was at his house for a mission! He was there cause he *lives there!* And I told him we were taking the mission! We only had a day to pack and I couldn't tell you!”

Ino still looked upset and she flipped her hair upsettingly, “Still, you owe me.”

“*Owe you?*” She looked confused, “What do I owe you for—?”

“You need to make it up to me!” Ino yelled back, “I was left here! With your brother as a teacher! And I had to learn from him that you weren't around! You and Kiba have to make it up to me!”

Sakura blinked, “I'll buy and we can all hang out at a dango place.”

Ino nodded haughty, “Yes, and then we can talk all about your mission and Sasuke-kun and how your brother is the *worst*.”

Sakura nodded like a sibling who had a menace for a brother, “Sounds right.”

Ino lifted her chin, “Tomorrow for lunch, at noon.”

“But—” Sakura attempted.

“No buts!” She lifted a finger, “I will make sure Kiba will be there. We will meet up on the path to the training grounds.”

Sakura sighed heavily, “Okay, see you then.”

Ino swung around with her long blonde locks whipping around as she dramatically strolled away.

Sakura sighed again and turned around to see him sitting on the ground holding open a scroll. She jumped slightly and blinked at him, “Were....were you listening the *whole time?!?*”

He blinked up at her, “Yes I was.”

She let out a loud groan and turned around and ran up the stairs.

He chuckled and looked at his new scrolls, “She is not very good with sensing still.”

Techno had also summoned Theseus back after a day of being back. Theseus had not taken kindly at being sent away for his mission and had ignored him for a day. Theseus had tired of ignoring him quickly and instead demanded pets and sweets. Techno had obliged.

The Boar was also bigger, and more importantly, changing colours. He had noticed while brushing through his fur. Random patches seemed to be darkening into colours, mostly along his back and across his face. The fur on his legs seemed to be thickening into a thick woolly texture. The colour of his fur was still undecided, he was dark currently but Techno had a feeling it would lighten up.

He noticed the villagers' reactions to him carrying the executioner's blade. Awe and nervousness overtook their faces and they were unsure what to make of him. They never cared about him much before, but now he's carrying a giant sword with a bloody history made for one of the seven swordsmen of the water. Hypocrites don't even care that the most dangerous Ninja casually wanders around the village without ever attracting opinions (*Just because he's not subtle about his strength, but when has he ever been subtle?*).

Chat was bothering him like no tomorrow, yelling and excitedly talking about the Chunin Exams. Apparently the Exams were a massive turning point and were very impactful. Strangely he noticed Chat was, although talking a lot, not actually saying much. They seemed to have multiple different perspectives and he was once asked why they seemed to not have a definitive view of the future. Their answer was very concise.

The Chunin Exams is the pinnacle point.

People keep changing their decisions, some actions are set in stone.

But at this moment, everyone is changing their minds.

It was an interesting answer to be sure. He's heard of such important moments, but typically those are set in stone. But currently people's actions keep changing and that seems to be changing the future. Meaning the future is built on people's actions, not necessarily the world. It was kind of frightening—how influential the people were in this world, and how much they could alter the future.

Perhaps more importantly for him.

He's been thinking of looking in.

Techno knows he has been warned by multiple beings. From his moderators to his Chat, but...looking in may offer him answers. Specifically answers about the SMP.

He knows he died in their world. Killed by the Egg and its cruel minions. His friends and family are hiding away as he sacrifices himself to break the Eggs barrier away, but now...

He wonders if anyone else was here. He wondered if they'd have died and been reborn here as well. He wonders if it's just him that was sent here. And the thousands of voices in his head.

He knows Chat won't know that far. Or at least the immediate Chat won't know. However, he hears the dead, and the dead is not just Chat. If he could speak to the lurkers in his Chat and get information out of them...perhaps he might get some answers.

And perhaps his time is coming up. With the Chunin Exams coming around the corner his typical schedule is going to be different. No training with Gai-sensei or his team. No bothering and fighting with Sakura. His parents will be busy with the shops and probably will not ask him to man them with so many new customers. Meaning he will have plenty of free time.

Time to learn how to even enter that side of his soul. Look into the great beyond and be able to come back. It could kill him.

But he's never been scared of dying.

And he never will be.

Chapter End Notes

OooooOOOO

Looks like Techno knows what he will be doing for the Chun exams
but what will come from it
;)

E

Sakura Thirteen

Chapter Notes

LONG BOI, LONG BOI, LONG BOI
I was a mad man writing this chap
enjoy the beginning of the arc

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Sakura found their new abundance of D-ranks *miserable* .

Everyday they would find their way to the same grounds and train until Sensei showed up to take them for *chores* -I mean, missions. The missions were even worse than before, now that they've had a real ninja mission, it was unbearable to be given grunt work.

It didn't help that being back in the village has caused Sasuke and Naruto to tense back up.

Sasuke had obviously reverted slightly back into his more pompous, gothic attitude. He has been sneering and challenging her to more fights and has been less kind about their training, treating it less like a training session and more showing off. It was frustrating to the highest degree. She had just gotten close to him and now he was shoving her away again.

Naruto had been getting rowdier and seemed to be getting more erratic as more people came into the village. He seems to be getting more and more aggressive with wanting to train and stay away from missions. She noted how he was also spending long hours away from his home. Avoiding interacting with the people in his apartment no doubt.

They were extremely tense and uneasy in the busting village. There was more arguing although their training was still extremely effective. She noted the only good thing happening in their team was Kakashi-sensei actually teaching them things now.

On the third day of them meeting up Sensei had shown up with a cheeky attitude. Praising them for their training and easily ignoring the rising tension in the team.

He had then sat them down and casually went through all the things they needed to work on.

Sasuke had needed to work on his control and work with fighting different style enemies. As Sensei explained, Sasuke was used to straight over-powering his opponents, rarely does he need strategy against a stronger opponent. Thus he might be easily beaten by people with unique or odd fighting styles. And his stealth is apparently terrible.

Naruto had needed to work on taijutsu. Sensei pointed out he simply couldn't fight. He could overwhelm and hit, but he had no actual taijutsu to fall back on. His control was also

abysmal. Sensei wanted him to work on the basics, the academy forms. His stealth also apparently sucked.

Sensei said Sakura needed to work with stamina and perfecting her strength. Also, the medic jutsu was to be worked on. He told her they wouldn't start working with real jutsu's until she could perfectly describe every part of the body. For now he began showing her new techniques to help the body. How to find natural pain and antibacterial plants, or how to stitch or bandage different wounds or treat illnesses with no supplies. It was extremely useful. Her strategy also needed fixing. Her stealth was *also terrible*.

The training was relieving as it kept them busy while ignoring the horrible D-ranks they were stuck doing.

She also met up with Kiba and Ino.

They had eaten at a dango restaurant. They met up at the fork of the training ground path. Kiba and Akumaru had been standing there already. She noted Akamuaru's slight size increase with surprise. He was still small and sitting on Kiba's head, but his little feet dangled a bit now. She had grinned and held Akamaru while telling Kiba about their mission. Ino was shown soon after.

They walked together, gossiping about the Exams and watching the new people come in and out of the village. She laughed at Kiba and Ino who began arguing as they sat down. It brought her back to the academy.

She quietly told them about the mission. About Zabuza and Haku and about her almost dying and punching ice and Ren showing up. Ino had asked relentlessly about Sasuke and what happened with him and why they got along better. Sakura told them he got his Sharingan and they came to an understanding (*Their talks are a little private*) .

While Ino squealed about Sasuke and how jealous she was about them getting a high ranking mission (While mentioning how she got a C-rank), Kiba bragged about how he and his team were being submitted to the Chunin Exams.

They both gaped at him while he smugly talked about how their teacher, Kurenai, informed them of her decision to have their team participate in the Exams and become chunin. Ino had squinted at him and asked him if his teacher worked in genjutsu. He, confused, nodded and they were then shocked to learn that Kurenai-sensei was also Ino's Genjutsu Mistress. Ino then casually said that her teacher, Asuma Sarutobi, and his teacher, Kurenai Yuhi, were probably dating.

The casual hangout turned into a gossip session between all of them. Sakura gushed about how strong her teacher was, to which Ino said she'd look him up in the Bingo Book when she gets home. Kiba talked about how good his team was and how he was ready to become chunin. Ino ranted about how her team felt out of sink and that they were having trouble working together. She noted Chouji was working on his medic jutsu with an insane poison and a ninjutsu woman whose shirt was barely classified as a shirt.

It was fun, talking and not worrying about pushing their buttons or having to work around someone's pride. Especially with how grouchy her teams were.

At the end of the day she had gladly paid for their meals and went home with a smile and giddiness she hadn't felt much.

The next day their team met up once again.

However this time, Kakashi-sensei decided to go over the scrolls with her.

She pulled open the new scroll and laid it flat on the ground. Kakashi-sensei was standing over her and looking down at the scroll.

He stopped her before she could press her hand down, "I wouldn't do that. This is for when you begin practising with medic-jutsu's."

Her face dropped but she nodded, "What is it?"

"It summons an injured fish," He said, "It will allow you to perfect any jutsu's without needing to practise on a person. Very efficient. However, you have to learn basic jutsu first or you might kill the fish accidentally."

She nodded and carefully rolled it up and then pulled out the other one with more care. She delicately unrolled it and sat it down.

Sensei hummed, "This is...much more valuable. You can begin using it any time. For now, put your blood onto the paper and I will show you what it does."

She bit her thumb and slowly applied it to the scroll. She watched in awe as the blood weaved around the paper into the shape of a body. It was almost magical. The body seemed to settle and she stared down at the outline of her body.

"Oh! Cool!" She jumped as Naruto yelled behind her, he leaned over her shoulder, "What does it do?!"

Kakashi leaned down, "This is your body Sakura, and currently you are fine. You would see something when you are injured." He reached out and held the ends and turned it to them.

She and Naruto gasped when the drawings changed. A layer down and now it looked like her muscles.

"When you apply chakra into it," He continued, "It changes the system you will see and will show the damage the further down it is. It will help with identifying and understanding wounds while you learn." He slowly twisted it back up and held it out for her to take.

She grabbed it with awe, "Does it work on other people?"

"Yes," Kakashi-sensei stood up, "If you used Naruto's blood, you would see Naruto's system."

They nodded and she pocketed it for safe keeping.

“Now!” Kakashi-sensei exclaimed, with an evil look in his eye, “Who wants to walk some dogs?”

They let out loud groans and turned around to Sasuke who was watching them with an annoyed look in his eye. They stood and followed after their Sensei.

She doesn't know how the mission ended with her and Sasuke holding Naruto up while walking ahead of their Sensei. Kakashi-sensei walked behind them with his little orange book while they struggled down an alleyway.

She grunted, pulling him up higher, “Sasuke, stop letting his feet drag.”

He scoffed, “Who cares if his feet drag, he should be able to walk.”

“Well he's barely even conscious!” She snapped, “And while I am also mad at him, I also don't want all of his weight on me!”

“That's his fault,” Sasuke huffed, adjusting Naruto up on his shoulders, “We shouldn't even be carrying him right now.”

She rolled her eyes, “Who else will do it? Sensei? We are at the end of the day and it's a blessing he's still here!”

“I can walk,” Naruto mumbled, “I am just happy you guys are willing to carry me.”

She and Sasuke looked at each other and nodded before dropping Naruto and letting him fall to the ground. He let out a loud *‘hmp!’* as he hit the gravelly ground.

She put her hand on her hips and channelled her mother, “You could walk this whole time!”

He sat up and gingerly scratched her face, “I woke up while you were walking with me. And I couldn't feel my legs until a few streets back! But I didn't want to interrupt you guys.”

They stared at him and Sasuke sighed, “Sensei's gone.”

She nodded sadly, “He already told us it was the end guess, he just wanted to make sure Naruto was okay.”

Sasuke huffed and turned down the alleyway, “I'm going to go train.”

“Wait!” Naruto called, standing up on shaky legs, “Sasuke! Let's all train together!”

“I'm tired of training with you both,” Sasuke waved his hand, still walking.

She growled, “And you don't think we aren't tired?! You can't just walk away cause you're frustrated about Kakashi-sensei not training your Sharingan!”

He stopped and turned slightly, “You dont think I'm just annoyed by you two?”

“No,” She shook her head, “It's not just us, you're frustrated about many things and taking it out on us.”

He straightened and continued walking forward, “See you two tomorrow.”

“Aw, Sasuke!” Naruto called as he left, “You don't have to leave.”

“Let him go Naruto,” She sighed, “He's just going to get more frustrated if he's forced to stay with us.”

Naruto stared after the retreating Sasuke before turning to her with a small smile, “Hey that doesn't mean me and you can't...hang out?”

His cheeks were slightly pink and she let out another sigh, “We can train but it's not a date, Naruto.”

He jumped up with a grin, “Alright, Sakura-chan! Me and you! We can go eat and train and maybe hang out at the park and—” He stopped suddenly and she turned to him with a raised brow.

He was staring at a very badly done camouflaged blob on the ground. She blinked and he took a few steps down the alleyway to which the blob followed him.

He pointed down at it, “That's the worst camouflage Ive ever seen! There are not even any rocks around here! It's completely obvious!

“You saw through my camouflage again! Well done, boss!” A squeaky boy’s voice came from the blob, “Just what I expected from my greatest rival!”

A loud sizzle and she yelped covering her eyes. She could hear Naruto yell as well, and a bright light exploded from the blob.

She opened her eyes as the camouflage exploded off the top to expose three cushion kids. They coughed loudly and the boy spoke again, “I think that was too much gunpowder, guys.”

The boy looked up at Naruto and nudged the other two. The girl stood up, “I’m Moegi!” The other boy with glasses stood, “I am Udon.” Finally the last boy stood, “And I am Konohamaru!”

Naruto blinked down at them and let out a long sigh, “I knew it was you Konohamaru, why are you wearing those goggles?”

“You used to wear goggles!” The kid—Konohamaru exclaimed, “We're just copying you!”

She grinned while listening to this and looked at Naruto’s reddening face, “Oh.”

“ ‘Oh’ what's with that!” He yelled, “You should be more excited!”

“So, do you want something?” Naruto asked casually.

She smiled watching the kids get offended at his lack of reaction. Konohamaru turned to his friend, "Don't worry he's just trying to be cool!" Moegi pointed down, "You know what we want! Are you busy?!"

He peeked over at her and went pink, "Yeah! I'm busy! I'm going to train with my team!"

"What?!" They yelled, "But you said we'd play ninja today!"

"Oh, uh," He stumbled, "Did I say that?"

She let out a loud snort and they turned to her, "A ninja playing ninja? Kind of ironic."

They stared at her and Naruto let out a loud awkward laugh, "Yeah! You're right!"

She squinted at him, "Are you alright, Naruto?"

He was turning red and Konohamaru spoke up, "Who's the girl, boss?"

She raised a brow and watched as Konohamaru leaned over to Naruto and gasped, "Is she your...girlfriend?"

She almost laughed until Naruto started grinning, "You guys are pretty sharp for some kids!" She gaped at her teammate as he laughed with the three kids who clamoured for his attention.

Sakura walked over to him with deadly intent and watched as he flinched back, "Wait, Sakura, no—"

She slammed her hand into his side where she knew he was slightly wounded and he fell back onto his but with a loud wince.

She clenched her fist at him, "No means no, Naruto! I don't like you like that!"

He held his side and looked up at her sadly, "S-sorry."

"Hey! What kind of girlfriend are you!?" A squeaky voice yelled. She backed up as the two surrounded Naruto and Konohamaru pointed at her, "You're a witch! And you're ugly too!"

She gaped and her eye twitched, her voice was eerily calm "What?"

Naruto face was horrified, "Konohamaru—"

"How could you hurt him?!" He continued not sensing the growing danger he was in, "Boss is a great guy and you and your big forehead should be happy to be with him!"

She cracked her knuckles and prepared to beat up a child.

"Konohamaru! Run!" Naruto yelled.

The kid seemed to finally realise what had happened and turned around and booked it. She turned to Naruto and the other two, "I'm going to give him a head start."

They gaped at her and scrambled to stand and rush after their friend. She cracked her neck and ran after the group. She dodged past people on the streets as she followed after Naruto and his minions. Running past stalls and clusters of shops as they found their way to an outer edge of the village.

She slid to a shop and whipped her head around to see Naruto and the girl and mopey boy stopped. She hastily jogged closer, “Naruto! Where is the little—”

She stopped and stared at the scene.

Konohamaru was being held up by his stupidly long scarf by a dark figure. She gasped and pulled out a kunai knife, “Put him down!”

The figure turned to her and she got a good look at him. He was around her age and tall, he was in a one-piece that was all black with detail of red and yellow. The one-piece came over his head and some type of ears at the top. His face was covered in purple paint marks. He looked his dark brown eyes down at them, “No need to get hostile.” His voice had a strong accent with a playful hint.

“Put him down Kankuro, you know you’ll just get in trouble for it later.” A strong assertive voice said. Sakura watched as a tall girl with sandy blonde hair tugged his arm. She was tall and older than them by two or three years. She was very beautiful and was wearing a wrapped dress with her skin all covered. Her voice also had a strange accent.

Sakura decided to speak up and put her kunai away, “Hey, it's alright. We didn't mean to...” She trailed off, “Bump into you.”

The boy grinned and with a dry tone said, “Bumped into us, huh? I'm guessing you mean that literally, as this one ran into me.” He shook Konohamaru, who let out a small whimper.

“Put him down!” Naruto yelled and she grimaced.

“Should I?” The tan boy cocked his head “He ran into me and hasn't even apologised.”

The girl turned away with a loud sigh. Sakura took both of them in and debated their chances, “So let him go and let him apologise.” She hoped she was right and that they were ninja. Their hitai-ate certainly made it look so.

He turned to her and hummed, “Maybe...maybe not. After all, why should I accept his apology when I know he doesn't mean it?” He tightened his fist around the scarf and she heard Konohamaru gasp loudly.

Naruto grit his teeth and took a step forward, “You put him down!”

Konohamaru suddenly began struggling and attempting to kick at him, “Let go! Let go! Let go of me you jerk!”

The boy dodged the kicks with ease and let out a low laugh, “See. He doesn't feel bad at all... why don't I make him feel bad?”

Her eyes widened and she pulled her kunai back out, but before she could do anything Naruto ran at the guys. Screaming out Naruto pulled out a knife, "Put Konohamaru down!"

The guy shifted his hand not holding Konohamaru subtly, and Naruto fell like he was tripped. She gasped and the other two kids ran and hid behind her.

The guy looked down at Naruto, "You Leaf-Genin are weaker than I thought."

He tightened his fist again, and Naruto stood, "Konohamaru!"

The kid struggled and gasped, "Tha-that hurts!"

Naruto pointed at him, "Let him go or I'm going to tear you apart!"

She glared at him, "Put him down! He's just a child!"

"So," He said casually, "I don't like little runts anyway. Especially not rude, loud brats. Makes you wanna...hurt'em."

They gaped at him as he spoke and Sakura tightened her grip on her knife and readied herself to throw. The tall pretty girl sighed loudly, "I'm not involved in this."

The guy lifted his arm as if he was going to throw Konohamaru only for something to fly by and his arm. His face changed into an angry snarl and he let go of him, they all turned to the person who threw it.

Sakura and Naruto groaned. In a tree like a dramatic *ass* was Sasuke who was tossing a rock up and down. Sasuke called out, "I don't know what you're trying to do in someone else's village..."

Konohamaru got up and ran towards Naruto who hugged him close.

"Get lost," Sasuke emphasised his thought by breaking the rock into dust.

She and Naruto stared unimpressed at their teammate. They turned to each other with bored eyes and sighed. She could hear Moegi and Udon gushing and Konohamaru looked up at Naruto, "Why can't you be that cool?!"

She shook her head and looked back at the two foreigners. They guy was clearly annoyed with Sasuke's interruption.

"Hey punk, why are you hiding up there?" He asked calmly with danger in his tone, "Why don't you come down here and fight me like a real ninja?" He shifted the thing on his back until he held it in one hand.

"Kankuro, back off," A dry raspy tone called out.

They all turned to Sasuke, who was blinking rapidly and also confused about the voice. In the tree above him standing upside down was a boy. He was skinny and pale with the brightest, bloody red hair she'd ever seen. He had sky blue eyes surrounded by black eye bags and

thick eyelashes with no eyebrows. The most prominent thing on his delicate face was the deep red tattoo on his forehead. She couldn't see what it said.

He spoke again, "You're an embarrassment to our village." His accent was the thickest between the three.

Kankuro fell back and took his hand off the thing on his back and a painful looking smile appeared, "Hey there Gaara." He looked like he was gritting his teeth.

"Have you forgotten why we are here?" The dead-eyed boy asked. His blank eyes went over them before landing on Sasuke, "I'm sorry for any trouble we may have caused." His tone held no inclination towards being apologetic.

Without warning his body burst into sand. They gasped. The sand travelled to the ground next to the other two and began to reform itself.

The shape it took was of Gaara and he reappeared and he stood slowly. Gaara was the shortest of the three and he had a giant gourd attached to his back. He turned to the other two, "Let's go, we aren't here to play games." The two nodded.

Sakura rolled her lip between her teeth and decided to step in, "Hold on!"

They paused and turned to her. She refused to fidget at their judging stares, "From your Hitai-ate, it's my belief you are ninja from the Village Hidden in the Sand. Without question, the Leaf and Sand are allies. However, you need express permission to come and go as you please, so state your purpose."

"Really?" The girl drawled, "Are you living under a rock? Don't worry, we have our permits." She held out a paper and then quickly tucked it away, "And we are here for a purpose, The Chunin Exams, got it?"

Sakura swallowed and looked at the other two and nodded, "Of course."

"The Chunin Exams?" Naruto mumbled.

The girl must have heard him, "What? Are you seriously asking about what the Chunin Exams are? Even with your village hosting them?"

She heard Konohamaru quietly tell Naruto about the Exams and he loudly exclaimed, "Oh man! I have to take this!"

She winced and watched as the three began to turn away and she put her knife away. "Hey! Identify yourself!" She turned confused to see Sasuke standing on the road calling to the three.

The three stopped again and the girl pointed to herself, "Are you talking to me?" She sounded annoyed.

"No," Sasuke shook his head, "The one with the gourd."

The redhead turned, “I am Gaara of the desert. And who are you?”

Sasuke smirked, “I am Sasuke Uchiha.”

They stared each other down before Naruto cut in, “Aren't you going to ask for our names?”

“I couldn't care less,” Gaara said bluntly. He and the other two vanished like Kakashi-sensei.

They stared after them and Sakura let out a small scream and they all jumped. She deflated and looked at them, “I'll see you guys tomorrow.”

Naruto's brow furrowed, “Wait, Sakura weren't we going to—?”

“Later,” She interrupted him and glared at Sasuke, “We will all talk tomorrow.”

She ran off hearing Konohamaru ask Naruto what was wrong with ‘ *his girlfriend* .’

Chapter End Notes

:0 A new challenger appears!
also konohamaru is a little shit

Kakashi Eight

Chapter Notes

soo

I have been slowly updating older chaps. The first 20 are updated and hopefully better than before.

Last chap was maybe my favorite, I just love the sand siblings and I hope I made them kinda intimidating??

Kinda hard, also can you tell which one is my fav lol

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Kakashi stood among his fellow jounin as they submitted their students for the Chunin Exams. He blankly listened to the Hokage talk about the Exams and the Examinees and the death toll. He waited patiently as he asked about the rookie genin teams and if any of them were submitting. He watched as Kurenai walked forward and properly indicted her team. Then Asuma submitted his and then he submitted his.

All three of the rookie genin would be participating in the Konohas' Chunin Exams. He, Asuma and Kurenai were allowing their teams the chance to be hurt or seriously killed. He on some level didn't understand it; he knew Kurenai had been planning to submit hers, but Asuma? Asuma was not a split-decision person, which means he had been arranging this for some time. Or more than likely, the Hokage had told his son right beforehand. Perhaps that's why Asuma seemed annoyed and frustrated.

He understood it on some level—having all of the teams, *clan teams*, pass, would look impressive. Based on what the Hokage told them, the kids of the Sand's Kazekage would be entering. Which means not showing off would be impertinent. The people will want a show (*so why not just kill off your kids?*) and the Hokage and Kazekage will want progress.

However, he meant what he told the Hokage.

"I will pull anyone and all of them if I feel the need too," He told the sitting Hokage.

He looked up at him with whitening eyes, "You would disobey direct orders?"

Kakashi bowed his head, "Your orders were to have my students submitted publicly into the Chunin Exams."

"Yes," He said gravely, "And they need to participate."

"Of course," He lifted his head, "But..."

"But?" He took a huff from his pipe and a loud cough.

“As their teacher, I have the authority to pull them if necessary.” He stated.

Sarutobi-sama leaned back and looked at him, “And I am the Hokage, thus are you telling me you will pull them even if I order you not to?”

Kakashi felt the power in the air, he nodded, “Yes.”

The Hokage stared at him and finally let out a long pain-filled sigh and the pressure in the room dissipated, “I hear you , Kakashi.”

Kakashi waited.

“I need someone in your group of students to be out there,” He said, “Yours or Asuma’s or Kurenai’s. I need someone impressive for the village to be proud of and for the Kazekage to be impressed, Kakashi.”

Kakashi nodded, “Of course, Hokage-sama.”

“I hoped it would be from your group,” He chuckled ruefully, “Kakashi, the Copy-nin, and his talented students. I still think it will be from you, the Uchiha boy.”

Kakashi glanced at the ANBU that silently entered the room, “It’s only for an emergency.” And he doesn’t think Sasuke is ready, he thought.

Sarutobi-sama sighed and the ANBU walked over and whispered to him. He nodded seriously, “Kakashi, I’m giving you permission to pull your students, only in an emergency. And...only if there are other rookie genin currently participating and if they are doing well.”

The ANBU vanished and Kakashi nodded, “Thank you, Hokage-sama.”

“Good,” He stood and wrapped his white and red robe around himself, “The Kazekage’s children have arrived and I need to go greet them.”

Kakashi heard the dismissal, and he bowed deeply, “Yes, Hokage.”

His appreciation for the Hokage was short-lasting, however. The arrival of the Sand genin meant the Chunin Exams were only days away and now he had to inform his kids that they would be participating.

Of his students the worst would be Sasuke. Naruto doesn't even seem to be aware that the Chunin Exams were happening. Sakura fully believed they wouldn't be participating because he hasn't mentioned it yet, but Sasuke...

Sasuke had started asking about becoming a chunin after they came home from Wave. Afterall, the Chunin Exams were taking place about three weeks after they got back. He told Sasuke what he understood, *“Not that I’m aware of.”*

Now, they are all going to be working to be chunin.

And he has to tell them.

He could hear annoyed yelling down at the meeting spot. Seems Naruto and Sakura are particularly annoyed today. He could even hear Sasuke agreeing to their complaining about how late he is today (*Only two hours later than the normal two hours he's late*) .

He waited another moment before appearing next to them.

“Good morning, everyone,” He said casually, “Sorry I'm late, I got a bit lost on the road of life...”

“LIAR!” Sakura and Naruto accused him.

He sighed and walked over to them. They gathered around him and he decided to throw it out there.

“I know this is sudden, but I have recommended all of you for the upcoming Chunin Exams,” He watched their reactions.

Sakura's surprise and confusion, Naruto's excitement and Sasuke's satisfaction. Between them it would be Sakura who would question why so late. Naruto is too excited and short-sighted to see the problem while Sasuke is too focused on his own need to progress that he won't see the strangeness of this.

“And these,” He pulled out three cards, “Are your applications—you'll need to fill these out and then bring them with you.”

They took the cards and read through them, he cocked his head, “Now...just remember, you don't have to participate. Any of you can say no and just wait till next year.”

He silently hoped they would all turn it down.

“Alright! Kakashi-sensei! I love you!” Naruto jumped at him and Kakashi's heart seemed to stop. The kid wrapped his arms around his neck and Kakashi quickly held him up and spun him around.

“Get off! You're gonna get slobber on my vest,” He softly unhooked his hands and set him down. Naruto was grinning widely with his blue eyes sparkling and Kakashi melted slightly. “Now remember, if you do sign it; go to room 301 at 3:00 p.m four days from now at the academy.”

“The academy?” Sakura looked up from the paper, “Why is it at the academy?”

He shrugged nonchalantly, “Who knows, maybe they want you to take some paper tests.”
Please take my warning.

Naruto sighed loudly, “Man, I hope not! I couldn't pass those if I studied all day!”

Kakashi grimaced behind his mask.

“What will we be tested on exactly?” Sakura asked.

He shrugged again, "I can't tell you, however...there will be some fighting."

They rolled their eyes and Naruto bounced around. Sasuke looked up at him, "Will...will you have any say in this?"

They all turned to him at Sasuke's question and he pretended to think about it, "My input is a little involved. But not a deciding factor."

"But how important?" Sasuke pressed, looking at him inquiringly.

He sighed and stepped back, "Not very, I might be important depended on based on what type of test they do, but otherwise it's up to the three of you."

"The three of us?" Naruto suddenly asked, "I thought we were against each other?"

Kakashi narrowed his eye, "Technically, you are. But the test depends on all of you working together. That trumps all else."

Sasuke and Naruto looked at each other and then Sakura consideringly. He winced watching them, it was obvious they picked out that she was the weak link between the three of them. She followed rules the closest and prioritised safety above winning.

Sakura had a different reaction, "And what happens if one of us backs out?"

The boys shot their heads in her direction and he sighed, "Depending on what stage you are in and the rules they give you...you would leave or...all three of you would leave."

They gaped at him, "Al-all three of us?!"

He nodded, "Yes, beforehand you need three people but during it, it changes."

The boys again turned to the gaping Sakura. She clutched her paper tightly and nodded to him, "We'll do our best, Sensei."

The boys nodded to each other excitedly and Kakashi sighed inwardly, "Do me proud."

Sasuke tightened his fists, "And when we become chunin?"

He raised a brow, "What?"

"Will you still be our teacher?" Naruto looked up at him with his big blue eyes, "I-I...we don't want you just to leave when we get better."

Kakashi swallowed, "I will still be your main commander. But you will find that working with other chunin under new jounin will commonly occur."

Naruto smiled, "Good! I want to be able to beat you guys one day! Then when I am Hokage you guys can be my new council!"

Sakura smiled brightly at him and Sasuke smirked and goaded him into another fight. Kakashi stared at his students, his kids, and wondered. When their time ended together and he was no longer useful as their teacher, he knew where he would go. And sadly he didn't think they had much of a future together at all.

He smiled sorrowfully and quietly hoped they would all fail until years from now. Maybe then he could protect them for as long as possible.

Chapter End Notes

sadge.

I have always wondered about Kakashi and the after.

also hes hella pessimistic, but I think him loving his students helps.

in two chaps the Exams officially start.

Hinata Two

Chapter Notes

sweet child.

storms are afoot. can you tell I don't know Shino that well? imma have to for some research on him for later.

Also writing for a character has made me like them more

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Hinata spotted the group while she and her team were studying at the library.

She was carefully reading a report about the past Exams from an old proctor. Kiba-kun was barely paying attention instead playing with Akamaru. Shino-kun was reading through his own stack of books on different basic subjects.

Kurenai-sama had left them alone until lunch. She promised food and relaxation with the Exams only being in two days. She quietly wondered if Kiba-kun would last that long.

The other inhabitants of the library were silently working. She noted other ninja coming in and out, some from Konohaguke and others not.

The first thing that caught her eye was the colour. She was carefully copying and sketching any notes that looked useful when a bright pink colour stood in front of the window. She blinked and looked up.

In the window was a figure with back length bubblegum pink hair half up, half down. They were in a cool forest green shirt with white pants. She couldn't see much as they stood with their back to her.

The colour was certainly eye-catching but it was also distinct. She only knew of one person with that colour and length.

She licked her lips and whispered quietly, "Ki-Kiba-kun."

He looked up at her, "What's up, Hinata?"

"I-I think Sakura-chan is outside," She told him, "I mean...only if you want to go s-see her."

Kiba blinked and turned to look at the windows. He narrowed his eyes, "I think...I don't think that's Sakura."

Hinata glanced at the figure, "Who do you think it is then?"

He scratched Akamaru's chin absentmindedly "It could be her brother. He's the only one I know who has that colour."

Hinata pushed her own fingers through her short hair, "Do-Do you still want to say hi?"

"We should be studying," Shino-kun said from the side.

Kiba rolled his eyes, "We can take a short break. Come on, Hinata, I'll introduce you two!"

She gasped, "B-But Kiba-kun, I have to—"

"Take a break! Come on," He stood and placed his dog on his covered head, "You should meet more people and you'll ace any test anyway."

She blushed slightly but nodded, "Alright, we will be right back Shino-kun."

Shino sighed, "Be quick."

She stood taking Kiba's hand as he led her out the door into the bright, humid air. She clenched his hand tightly as he walked over to the boy.

Kiba-kun called to him, "Hey! Sakura's brother!"

The boy with pink hair turned to them and raised his brow, "Who're you?"

She flinched back at his bored tone but Kiba-kun only grinned, "I'm Kiba Inuzuka! I'm friends with Sakura."

He looked between them and blinked his black-eyes, "You're her *'best friend?'*"

He nodded and Akamaru barked, "Yeah, and this..." He pulled her closer gently, "Is Hinata, she's on my team and used to be in the same class as Sakura."

Haruno-san looked between them and she stared at his defined face, "Why are you talking to me?"

She looked down and Kiba shrugged, "I mostly wanted to ask about Sakura, I haven't seen her much lately and was wondering what they were doing with the Exams happening."

"Damn! Ren, I don't know how they are still going!..." A girl loudly called as she ran up next to them with what looked like weights on her back.

They both turned to her and she looked at them curiously, "Who're these two?"

"Sakura's friends," He said dryly, "Are you done already?"

She rolled her brown eyes, "Those two are supernatural, we've been going for over an hour."

She dropped the weights at Haruno-san's feet and grabbed one of the drinks he had next to him. Hinata watched as the girl chugged then poured the rest over her bun hair.

Kiba-kun watched her interested, "Is this your team?"

Haruno-san snorted, "No, these are my problems."

The girl mock laughed, "Funny."

He rolled his eyes at her and tossed her a towel. They watched as she wrapped it around her neck and she could see Kiba staring at her from the corner of her eye. She nudged him and he jumped. Hinata mouthed at him, *'don't stare.'*

He was slightly red and cleared his throat, "Are you guys participating in the Chunin Exams?"

The taller girl looked at them and nodded tiredly, "Yeah, we are."

"So are we," Kiba-kun lightly bragged, "Our Sensei thinks we have real good chances."

The girl looked them over, "You rookie's?"

Hinata blushed lightly, but Kiba only puffed up, "Yeah! We are, you?"

"This is our second year," She nodded, "Hopefully at least two of us make it to the finals."

"So you guys have participated before?" Kiba-kun asked curiously.

She shook her head and took the towel off, "No, but after watching them happen and talking to some other teams, we know what to look out for."

"Tenten," Haruno-san straightened, "Lee and Hyuga are coming around." He glanced at them and looked her up and down, "You must be related to Neji."

She felt the air in her lungs disappear and she stuttered heavily, "N-N-Neji?"

Loud footsteps echoed and two figures came around a bend. She clenched her hand around Kiba-kun's and he turned to her confused. "Are you okay?" She heard, but it was all mute. The air stayed in her throat and she couldn't breathe.

The two figures with weights on their back came closer and the girl, Tenten-san, grabbed two drinks. Kiba-kun shook her slightly but her eyes were glued to the character.

The one in all green with an...interesting haircut threw their weights down with a grunt and took the water from his teammate with a large smile. He looked at the two of them curiously and Kiba introduced them.

Her wide pale eyes stared at her cousin as he took off his weights. He didn't even glance at them as he chugged the water Tenten-san handed to him. It wasn't until Kiba-kun was done introducing them that he turned to her. Her chest rose rapidly as he slowly sneered at her.

"...And this is my other teammate, Neji!" Lee-san announced excitedly, drinking another water.

Hinata opened her mouth, “C-C-Cousin—”

“I know who she is,” He said coolly, pale, white eyes glaring at her, “No need to introduce us.”

Lee-san looked between them unwavering, “You certainly look related, but...we have to keep training—”

“Why are you here?” Neji-san interrupted, his tall figure looking at her and Kiba-kun, “I do not recall you and your team training here.”

Kiba took in her receding figure, “We’re information hunting at the library for the Chunin Exams.”

“So, you, the rookie Hyuga Princess, are taking the Chunin Exams?” Cousin continued, he looked at Kiba-kun, “And this is your Inuzuka partner?”

Akamaru growled quietly and Kiba contemplated him “Yeah, what’s it to you?”

“Nothing,” He chuckled cruelly, “Such a perfect team for the *Lady Hinata* to have. What other clan child makes up your team?”

“Neji!” Tenten-san snapped at him, “Leave her be! She's terrified of you!”

Lee-san stepped up, “Yes! I agree with Tenten-chan! You ought to leave the Lady Hinata alone no matter your own personal feelings.”

She shook slightly and she reluctantly cleared her throat, “H-He-Hello C-Cousin.”

He glared at her, “Princess.”

She flinched as Haruno-san spoke up.

“Five more laps,” He said dully, as if he couldn't be bothered to care, “All of you.”

The three teammates turned to him with wide, frightful eyes and Tenten-san spoke up, “ ‘*All of us*’ you mean just Neji, right Ren?”

He looked over them, “No, all. From now on, anytime he's rude, you all suffer for it.” He smiled evilly, “As a team.”

They gaped at him and Lee-san recovered first, “O-Of course! Ren-senpai! I will do ten laps to suffer for my teammates' mistakes!” He grabbed a weight bag and ran.

Haruno-san bent down and easily picked up the bags and shoved it at Tenten-san and Neji-san, “Get running.”

Neji-san mechanically put it on and began his five laps. Tenten-san narrowed her eyes at Haruno-san, “I'm going to get you back for sticking me with those two.”

He smirked and leaned back, "I'll see it coming."

She huffed and struggled putting on her bag and turned and began hers. Hinata could hear mutters of, '*cryptic jerk*' and '*now i'll never finish.*' She and Kiba turned to Haruno-san who was watching the students go.

She licked her lips and with reluctance spoke to the older Haruno, "Y-You didn't ha-have to punish all of them, Haruno-san."

Haruno-san looked at her, finally he said, "Neji's a jerk. I've tried. But I think it will take a while for reality to kick in for him."

She felt indignation rise slightly and a glare came to her eyes, "H-He is not—he's just a little...aggressive."

Haruno-san blinked at her and she blushed. Kiba-kun was staring at her, baffled. Haruno-san barked out a loud laugh and they jumped, "I guess you do have some energy in you. You should use it more often. You look terrifying."

She went very red and looked down, Kiba-kun laughed as well, "You should see her actually fighting—Ow! Akamaru—!"

"If it's anything like Neji's you are probably pretty capable," He nodded, "Although even he needs work."

She shook her black hair, "No, N-Neji-san is a genius. He-He's the perfect H-Hyuga."

Haruno-san gazed at her with black eyes and his handsome pale face, "He might be, but that doesn't mean he's a perfect warrior or ninja."

She looked in to the library at Shino-kun, "I-I don't think there is anything he couldn't do."

Haruno-san hummed, "Maybe, but his prejudices are holding him back."

She nodded and leaned against Kiba-kun, "I know, H-Haruno-san."

He grimaced, "Call me Ren, Haruno sounds strange."

She nodded slowly, "Ren-san, thank you, tell Sakura-chan we say hi."

Kiba-kun agreed, "Yeah, I'll probably see her soon either way."

"Fun studying," He called to them, "And Hyuga-sama?"

She froze at the high title, "Y-Yes, Re-Ren-san?"

"The only way to earn Neji's respect would be to beat him with your own rules, not his," He looked forward to the village.

She clenched her empty hand into a fist, "I know, Ren-san."

“Good luck at the Exams,” Ren-san said, “Don't anger the wrong enemies.”

They walked back into the library and she let her teammates hand drop and instead clenched her own. Kiba huffed across from her and sat Akamaru down and threw himself into his chair.

Shino-san looked up, “What happened?”

She opened her mouth but Kiba interrupted to loudly exclaim, “Hinata’s cousin is an *asshole* and I'm going to beat him in the Exams!”

They gaped him and they were shushed. Her ears burned and she stared at him. He grinned at her, and picked up his books, “I'm going to read every book in this damn library if it means I can beat them.”

Shino-san nodded, “Motivation is useful, why? Because it will allow you to actually try when we are told to do something.”

She smiled shyly as Kiba leaned over to attack Shino-san. She calmed her hands and picked her book up to continue reading.

Maybe I will earn his respect.

Chapter End Notes

I tried to make Kiba feel similar to his character. Even if its a little strange to write about Kiba making eyes at another character lol

ALSO! 100,000k. holy shit. Can't believe I made it. even if the pacing could be a little off.

Sakura Fourteen

Chapter Notes

next chap is chunin exams.
and we are getting plot stuff with Techno and his whole looking-in thing.
Also, 1-30 have been updated
and when I say updates I mean grammar fixed chiefly. Im not rewriting shit yet lol

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Sakura browsed through her brother's equipment. She skimmed his books, checked his knives and stole his bandages and food packets. All the while, he lounged on his bed and *'supervised'* her. He would glance up from writing in a book once in a while, criticise her and ignore her again. Annoyingly, his comments were often helpful.

Perhaps it was just her mind playing tricks on her as she rampaged around the house gathering things for tomorrow. Her parents had exhaustingly told her to take whatever they needed. They then kissed her and told her good luck for tomorrow and went to bed.

She had been digging through the house since dinner and now midnight is just around the corner. Her brother politely allowed her access to his room and his (*hoarding*) stocked supplies. The small bag she's allowed to take has been packed and unpacked multiple times and still remains only half-full.

So far, the guaranteed items in the bag are first aid, wet stone and dozens of knives. Her personal scroll has been attached to her hip for quick use. She also has subtler things, ninja wire and a firestarter.

Team seven is going to meet up around nine to prepare for whatever is waiting for them at the Chunin Exams. They are going to corroborate their things and hopefully optimize space and resources. She hoped to at least get six hours of sleep.

Sakura picked up a small book and turned to Ren with a curious hum. She held it out to him, "What is this?"

He thumbed through a book and lifted his chin, "What?"

She rolled her eyes, "This book, what is it?"

He sighed heavily and looked up. His black eyes looked at the book she was holding. Finally, he grunted and leaned over and grabbed it. He flipped through it quickly and held it back out, "A Bingo Book."

She brightened, " 'A Bingo Book?' Like one on dangerous ninja?"

He nodded, his pink hair in a bun on top of his head, "It's old, I found it from travelling wares. They sold me it for barely anything."

She opened the first page and found the glossary, "How old?"

He shrugged, "End of the Third War? It's hard to say. It's not a Leaf one, it is a Lightning one."

She looked at the beginning and stared at the listings. From D-Rank Ninja to the deadly S-Rank Ninja. She paused on that one, "Who had an S in our village?"

"Read it," He droned at her.

Leaning, she found the back of the book. There were a select few in the section, many of which were missing nin or from other nations. Finally, in the end, she found someone from Konoha.

"*" Jiraiya the Toad Sage? "*" She murmured, scratching her head.

Ren snorted loudly and she glared at him, "What?"

"Nothing," He huffed, "Just think you should know that page."

She angrily began reading through his file pausing for a second, "Wait...I recognize him!"

Ren looked slightly impressed, "You do?"

"He wrote those horrible smut novels Kakashi-sensei reads!" She declared.

Instantly his pride dissipated. "Oh," He said disappointed.

She deflated, "Just tell me, I'm too tired to think."

He sighed, "One of the Legendary Sannin from the Second War." He closed his book and laid back and closed his eyes.

Her green eyes lit up, "Like Princess Tsunade! She's also a Sannin!"

"Mhm," He said, "They were a three-man jounin team who were deadly during their war."

She paused, "Three? Who's the third?"

He pointed to the book, "*Read.*"

"Are they also an S-rank?"

"Yes."

"Is Tsunade in here?" She asked.

"Should be," He sat up, "She left around this time, so she might be listed as a rouge-nin."

It took her way too long to realise how the book was organized, “They are more dangerous as you read further?”

“Technically,” He nodded, he was dressed entirely in night clothes, “It's ranked based on how much those from Kumogakure would do against them.”

“Lightning’s capital? The Village Hidden in the Clouds?” She mumbled.

He stood with a groan and stretched, “Yes, It's different in other places. Like in Wind, Tsunade is rated the highest among the three. Or in Mist, she rated the lowest of the three.”

Her eyes widened as she found the page, “ ‘*Konoha’s Slug Princess Tsuande Senju?!’* What does that mean?”

“Her summons is slugs,” He offhandedly said.

“Oh,” She mouthed. The page went through her great feats and her price. Sakura’s jaw dropped at the amount, “Over seventy?!?”

“Million? Yes,” He walked over to her and began searching through his stacks.

She flipped through it more. Searching for the other Sannin, only stopping when the Third Hokage page went by. It made her pause realising the third Sannin member was rated as more dangerous than the actual Hokage. Finally, she found a page with writing on it.

She squinted turning it upside down and trying to read it over the scribbles. Gnawing on her lip, she looked up at Ren, “What does it say?”

He paused and leaned down and analysed the page, “ ‘*Orochimaru the Snake Ninja,*’ there is your third.”

The page was heavily defamed with crude drawings and multiple things were scratched out. She couldn't even see the photo, “Why is he so highly rated?”

“He was a massive participant during the Third War. He did a lot of damage to our enemies,” He stated, going back to look in his pile.

She sighed and skipped to the end of the book. The last page was marked with a warning, reading, ‘ *Do not engage, Flee on sight.* ’ Her curiosity told her to look it over.

The page was written on as well, but it was marked out with black ink as if purposeful. She was awed when she read the name, “ ‘*Konoha’s Yellow Flash,*’ Minato Namikaze. The... Fourth Hokage!”

He leaned over her and looked at the page, “Hm, It is.” He dumped another book in her lap, “Keep that.”

Her eyes bulged out at the price tag, “Two...Two hundred Million?!?”

“He was the Hokage for a reason,” Ren snorted.

She gaped and finally looked down at the book in her lap, “Another Bingo Book?”

“It's a new copy,” He shrugged, “Gai-sensei gave it to me.”

The book was so new it cracked when she opened it, “You want me to have it?”

“Yes,” He said, “I have no use for it.”

She slid it into her bag for tomorrow, “Thanks.”

He yawned, “Also, look at the B-ranks in the older copy.”

He collapsed back into his bed. The room was surrounded by shelves with books and items Ren collected. The bed was illuminated by the window.

She found the section and began flipping through it. She wondered what Ren wanted her to see.

The B-ranks were easily the most prevalent. It had the longest section of people in it. At the end of the section, was who Ren wanted her to see.

“*Kakashi Hatake, the Friend-Killer!?!*” She gasped.

“Bruh, I'm trying to sleep,” He mumbled drowsily.

She ignored him, “Why is he called the Friend-Killer?”

“Not my story,” His brows bunched, “Just wanted you to see him.”

She slowly closed the book with a huff and looked around, “I’m going...I’m going to go to bed and not pack anymore.”

He nodded, watching her, “Good.”

She stood with her knees and joints popping. Her back slowly straightened and she groaned in discomfort. She reached down and grabbed the bag and fixed Ren’s books.

He was laying under his sheets reading through a book and she leaned over and hugged him while he stiffly lay there. She mumbled, ‘*goodnight*’ and walked out, putting the lights out.

Her own room was a mess with items and things everywhere. She sat her bag next to the outfit for the Exams. She threw herself into her bed and stared out her window at the waxing moon. She could see ninjas rushing over the rooftops and she could see lights glowing from the more social end of the village. She closer her exhausted eyes.

She woke to be shaken.

Her eyes peeled open to her mother’s blurry figure. A hand ran through her hair and she relaxed into her pillows. Her mother leaned down, “It's already eight, you have to wake up if

you want to eat and get dressed properly.”

Her eyes shot open panicked. She stared up at her mother in horror. Blankets caught around her limbs as she tried to scramble out of bed. She grabbed her clothes and ran to the bathroom, “Save me breakfast!”

She washed quickly and efficiently, jumping out and towelling off and dressing quickly. She dried her hair off and jogged down the stairs to join her family for a fast breakfast.

Her mother and brother paused when she collapsed and began hastily eating. Her father must already be at the shop.

She ate the porridge in big bits drinking the water at the table. She was startled when someone started brushing her hair. Her bother said nothing and continued working with her long hair. By the time she finished her brother put her hair into a thick plait braid and pinned it to her head.

She hugged them both, thanked them for breakfast, ran upstairs grabbed her bag and everything in it and ran out the door.

The busy streets made for a hard path to follow. She jumped and jogged out of people's way as she made for the Training Grounds. She slowed as she spotted her two teammates. Waving to them, she made her way closer.

Sasuke paused what he was saying, and Naruto waved to her excitedly. She grinned and waved back.

Coming to a stop in front of them, she sighed, “I'm sorry for being so late.”

Naruto blinked at her, “Huh? Your like ten minutes early, Sasuke and I got here early 'cause we wanted to spar before the Exams.”

She blinked, “I’m...early?”

“It's not eight yet,” Sasuke grunted.

“O-Oh,” She stuttered, pulling out her bag and she setting it in front of her.

“It's cool you're here anyway!” Naruto cheered, “We just finished sparring and now we can all plan to kick everyone else butts!”

Sasuke rolled his eyes, “Idiot, we don't even know what we will be doing.” They walked over and brought back two bags.

Sakura reached over and grabbed Naruto’s bag, “Did you get more smoke bombs?”

“Yep!” Naruto crouched, “I got the bad smelling one too. Thought it might be more useful than just the blackout one.”

“Good idea,” She said, pulling out Naruto’s weapons, “Are these sharpened?”

“Yes,” Sasuke sat down, “I made him sharpen all of his things earlier.”

Sakura nodded, “Okay, I think we all have everything we need.”

“Do you think we will need a change of clothes?” Naruto asked.

Sakura paused, “Maybe, but I think that will be the point if we aren't given time to get more clothes.”

Sasuke zipped his bag close, “We have to win.”

She stopped and looked at him, “What do you mean?”

“I want to be chunin and the easiest way to do that is for all of us to get to the final rounds,” He nodded, his pretty face relaxed.

“Yeah, we can all be chunin together,” Naruto said quickly. As if trying to breeze over what he just said.

She squinted and anger bubbled up, “You-You want us three in the finale cause you think you could take both of us if it came to podium winners!”

Naruto grimaced and fell back.

Sasuke sighed heavily, “It's nothing against you two, but I know you both will..”

“Make you look better?” Sakura asked acidly.

Sasuke shook his head. She noted the tired bags under his eyes and the exhaustion in his slight frame, “I-I want all of us in the finale. I just also want...to win.”

Sakura leaned back and Naruto cut in, “I don't think it's that bad, but Sasuke, that is kind of...mean.”

He looked away, and sighed tiredly, “Whatever.”

Sakura bit her lip and let her anger go, “Okay, I get it. But *when* we all get to the finale, don't expect a sweep. We will give you a match.”

He nodded but his exhaustion didn't leave, “Fine.”

Naruto grinned, “We are going to kill it! Totally going to beat those Sand guys and beat our own classmates.” He laughed loudly.

Sakura smiled and stared at the hyperactive, intense Naruto and the quiet and contemplative Sasuke. Her two teammates might be better fighters but are her friends and her allies and competition.

Something seems off with Sasuke idk like he's conflicted about something.
OOOOh Bingo Book?! how exciting!
Also we might be getting a Kakashi draught soon

Sakura Fifteen

Chapter Notes

Happy April 1st!
Instead of a prank here's a new chap!
also fifteen is a weird fucking word

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

They arrived rather early at the academy. The halls were crowded with genin and teachers. She noted how the genin looked and acted compared to her and her teammates; they were older, closer to grownups and looking at them like prey.

They all stuck close together. Sasuke insisted on walking on the inside (Probably to avoid any of the fangirls that still prowled) and she and Naruto were on either side of him. She glared at anyone who glanced at them twice or laughed at them. Naruto was silently gushing and hyping himself for the Exam's.

They found that none of their old sensei's were here. It was all older, more stoic characters with chunin vests. They mechanically followed the moving crowd to a ruckus at the end of the hall. Sasuke shoved past some people for the view.

Sakura blinked down at the scene in front of her. A boy in a hideous green jumpsuit with orange leg warmers and a horrible bowl cut around his head. He was thrown to the ground with a bruise on his face.

Two other genin stood in front of a door. Both sneering down at the skinny boy. One spoke, "Think you can take these tests with your level of skill?" The other laughed, "Maybe you should all just leave now and save yourself the embarrassment."

A girl with brown buns in her hair helped the boy up and looked at the boys blocking their path, "Please move, we need to go enter the room you are blocking." Her words, while diplomatic, were shrouded in frustration and annoyance.

Sakura looked up at the room they were trying to enter: 301. It was the room they were supposed to enter. But...

She squinted at it. The letters looked almost...blurry to her. As did the two boys. There was something wrong with this setup.

She leaned over and nudged Naruto and whispered to him, "How many floors did we go up?"

He squinted at her, "Two..? We haven't even passed our old classroom yet."

Her eyes brightened, “You're right! And this is where our kunoichi classes were!”

He stared at her, “Uh, okay.”

She thanked him and shuffled closer to her other teammate. “Sasuke,” She mumbled to him, “Were on the third floor.”

His dark hair turned slightly to her, “It's a genjutsu.” He murmured.

She nodded, “We can move on without disturbing anyone—”
A loud slap ran out.

One of the boys had hit the girl in the face. Some people gasped but the girl stumbled back slightly and glared at them. Another boy with long smooth brown hair and braids stepped forward threateningly. Sakura guessed he was the other two's last teammate.

Sasuke leaned back into the two of them, “They are blocking the only way up.”

She grimaced, “We would have to bring attention to ourselves to get past them and break the genjutsu.”

“Why don't we break it without telling them to move?” Naruto asked, confused.

“We could,” She thought about it, “But they probably won't move anyway. They are doing this to make someone a target.”

Sasuke sighed and slouched forward, “We could...go outside and climb into a window.”

She tensed, “We don't know if any windows are open or if they will even allow us in.”

Naruto leaned closer, “Does anyone else notice?”

She turned to him curious, “What do you mean?”

He pointed to the three genin who were still trying to argue their way past the annoying two boys, “Do you think they know it's a genjutsu?”

Sasuke shook his head, “No, otherwise they would have broken it by now.”

Sakura licked her lips, “We have to break it and hope they take out the two genin.”

Sasuke nodded and gestured to her, “Sakura, you do it. You have the best control and are fast with signs.”

She hid herself behind her other two teammates. “Alright,” She nodded at the two of them and quickly put her hands together and said under-her-breath, “Kai.”

The genjutsu shattered easily under her chakra and the numbers changed from 301 to 201. The other genin noticed and quickly started murmuring and looking around to find whoever broke it.

The two boys looked up and one laughed, "Looks like someone figured it out. Sucks it wasn't either of you." He pointed to the girl and green boy.

Finally the boy with long hair stepped forward, "Move, your ruse is over and everyone knows you are two frauds looking for a fight."

They looked at each other and one grinned, "How 'bout we tell you who broke it?"

The boy wasn't tempted and he stepped forward, "Move."

The two looked at each other and sighed, "Fine, but just know one of your fellow genin has the chakra control to break a C rank genjutsu."

People gossiped quietly at their words and Sakura fought off her blush. Sasuke nudged and gave her an impressed-like nod. Naruto full on grinned at her.

The two boys opened the door behind them and went in, vanishing. The genin team walked in behind them and they, once again, followed the crowd in.

The room was a stairwell. People jogged up and onto the third floor. It was much emptier up here with people mostly taking up rooms rather than the hallway. They found their way to 301. There were two chunin taking papers looking them over and telling people where to go. The three of them handed over their papers.

The two looked over at them and wrote something and gave them back. One said, "Bottom floor, second hall and into the last room."

They nodded and began their way.

She walked quietly next to her teammates. Sasuke was stoically staring ahead and Naruto was looking around eagerly as they walked through their old halls.

She bit her lip as she came around a corner, the room was massive and empty with a stairwell that led to the main hall and the second corridors. This place felt like a maze without a teacher here anymore.

Naruto jumped down the stairs, giggling, "Come on, we don't want to be late!"

Sakura narrowed her eyes and jumped over the bannister after him with a laugh. She could hear Sasuke sigh and jump down after them.

Naruto had stopped and looked around, "Woah, I've never been to this part of the academy." The massive empty room had large white columns holding it up.

She also looked around, "Same, what is this for?"

"Who cares," Sasuke said, "Let's keep moving."

She and Naruto rolled their eyes but followed him.

A loud call interrupted them, “Hey! You three!”

They all stopped and looked at each other perplexed. They turned around to see the bowl cut boy jumping down from the upper floor. His two teammates, the two brunettes, followed him fluently.

He walked and stood in front of them. He had the *biggest* black brown eyes she'd ever seen with the thickest *lashes* she's ever seen. It made the rest of his face look very petite compared to his doll-like eyes. He also had very thick eyebrows.

“Which one of them broke the jutsu?” He turned to his two teammates.

Sweat fell off her forehead and she anxiously glanced at Naruto and Sasuke. They gave her reassuring glances.

The long-haired boy scoffed, “The girl.”

Her jaw dropped, *How did he?*

The doll boy turned to her and stared at her.

And stared at her.

And stared at her.

She felt annoyed and glared at him. She could hear her boys shuffling anxiously. The boy's own teammates looked confused.

Finally, she cleared her throat, “Yes?”

He jumped, startled, and stumbled backwards. His face was looking straight at the ground.

The boy's teammates walked closer and the girl asked, “Lee, what happened?” She finally saw the full face of his teammates and realised how they knew it was her. The boy on their team was a Hyuga. With white eyes and little to no pupils. He had seen her do it with his Byakugan.

The bowl—Lee lifted his head and she saw his face.

He was *very* red, all up his neck and upon his cheeks and he kept glancing at her and somehow getting redder. She herself felt embarrassment crawl up, at her boys suddenly knowing glances.

The Hyuga cleared his throat, “We came to speak with the team that broke the C rank jutsu.”

Sasuke shuffled forward, “And what did you want to talk about?” She and Naruto tensed, ready for a fight.

Lee, who finally got a hold of himself, jumped in, “We wish to declare our intention to be allies for the Chunin Exams!” He very clearly didn't look over at her.

The girl stepped closer, “We want a neutrality agreement if there's any team fights.”

Sasuke shifted, “Why do we want that?”

“Because,” Hyuga-san said, “We want allies that seem at least partially capable and you... will want allies who are not going to be targeted and who won't fool you.”

““Targeted?”” Naruto asked, blinking, “Who would want to target us?”

“Everyone,” The girl said, “You're rookies, no one likes to be shown up by kids just out of the academy. Everyone will want to target you.”

“And we won't fool you,” Lee said confidently, “Many people will attempt to use you and abandon you for their own purpose! But we won't! We need allies and...” He stared at her again and went red.

“Because you showed you were capable!” The girl jumped in hastily, “And you,” She pointed at Sasuke, “You're an Uchiha!”

Sasuke flinched back mutedly, and she spoke up, “What does that have to do with anything?”

“Yeah! What does that mean to you guys!?” Naruto stepped up.

“It means,” The Hyuga said, “That you are at least somewhat reliable and your teammate is strong enough to break a C rank jutsu. Two out of three means you are partially powerful.”

She could feel Naruto sizzling at the lack-of-mention of his character.

“So what do you say?” Lee held his bandaged wrapped hands, “Allies?”

She looked at her teammates. “Uh, just give us a second.” She pulled them off to the side.

She looked at the blank Sasuke and frazzled Naruto and sighed, “We should do it.”

Naruto jumped, “What? Why? How can we trust these guys? What if they just want to trick us?”

Sakura grimaced, “I know, but they're not wrong—we will be targets and having strong allies could be useful.”

“I don't trust them,” Sasuke said suddenly, “The Lee guy keeps looking at me weird. Like he wants to fight.”

“Yeah, he keeps looking at Sakura weird too,” Nartuo giggled, teasing.

Scowling, she glared at him, “Not funny. You can be just as bad.”

He blushed, “Yeah, but he's...”

“What, Naruto?” She pressed, eyes twitching, “Cause I bet they could take us in a fight.”

“We could do it,” Sasuke nodded, “But we would have to lay down some rules.”

She agreed, “They look capable.” She glanced at the girl and the obvious weapon hidden under her clothes.

“So we're going to work with them?” Naruto scrunched his nose, “What if we have to fight each other?”

“Then we fight each other,” Sasuke nodded before glancing at a clock, “We have to hurry, we've wasted any time we gained.”

“Alright,” They stood and turned to the other team.

“We will ally with you,” Sasuke crossed his arms, “But, we want some rules.”

“Okay,” Lee strode up to them, “What is it?”

They glanced at each other, “You...have to help one of us if something happens.”

“Okay,” The groups nodded.

“None of us can backstab each other nor leave the other behind,” Sasuke continued.

“Reasonable.”

“And...we can call off the agreement at any time,” He finished.

They tensed at that one and the Hyuga glanced at them, “Do you think we are fools? You could easily betray us then.”

“Not like that,” Sakura spoke nervously, “As in, both teams don't want it anymore.”

They looked at one another and Lee stepped closer again. He stared at Sasuke and held his hand out again, “Allies?”

Sasuke shook it, “Allies.”

They let go and backed up.

The girl spoke, “Introductions?”

“I am Rock Lee!” Lee announced.

“Neji Hygua.”

“Tenten,” The girl said.

Naruto happily said, “Naruto Uzumaki! Future Fifth Hokage!” Neji snorted and was nudged by Tenten.

“Sasuke Uchiha.”

“Sakura Haruno,” She said, relieved to finally get to the test.

The team stared at her and her frayed nerves cracked, “What?!”

“Your...” Lee’s red face went pale, “Haruno?”

“Sakura...Haruno...” Tenten’s jaw dropped.

Neji was now looking at her interestedly, “Haruno’s sister?”

“Ren?” She asked, hand coming to the ring around her neck, “You know him?”

“Ahem,” Naruto said loudly, “We are going to miss it if we dont leave!”

They turned to him. He was holding open the door to the hall. Sakura jogged over to him and fled through the door. She could hear the others running after her.

The door at the end was one of the only in the hall. She hurriedly ran to it.

She stopped, waiting for them to catch. Sasuke stood to her left and Naruto on her right. The others waited next to them.

“You guys go in first,” Tenten said, hand on her hip, “You don't want to bring attention by being last.”

Naruto nodded, “Alright! Let's do it!”

Sakura swallowed and walked forward and opened the door and held it open for her team.

Chapter End Notes

Okay so, Tornado season is happening and I have been busy. But wow their have been some storms around here. nothings happened so that's good.

I will report if something does happen!

probably not. hopefully.

Hinata Three

Chapter Notes

Hey so, I disappeared for a sec.
don't worry I got a good reason.

I fucking twisted my ankle while running.
stupid me.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Hinata followed behind Shino-kun as he followed Kiba-kun.

The crowded room with genin was tightly together. She found herself having to duck and apologise as she lightly shoved past the room's occupants. People were lounging on the desks, crouching on the floor and standing in large, tight clumps. They were all much bigger than her or her teammates. Watching them with sneers and cruel grins.

They had arrived early, hoping to see and achieve an advantage. However, it seems to have only brought them negative attention from the few who were already here.

Shino-kun had suggested they hide under anyone's radar. Avoid gaining attention until they need to. Luckily as more people showed the less attention they received. They were relatively easy to write off. They all showed up in beige, or grey to seem bland. Shino-kun was also rather tall and reached many people's shoulders. She and Kiba-kun had large hoodies on to make them look bigger.

She used her Byakugan once they reached the corner of the room. Looking around she turned to her teammates, "I-I see another team. Ino-chan and her team are at the front." She pointed off to the side.

Kiba-kun pulled his hood tighter, "Man, Ino's here? I need to go say hi or she'll kill me."

"We are supposed to stick to the plan," Shino-kun spoke softly, "Ino-chan is not subtle, she will no doubt attract attention."

"Oh come on," Kiba groaned, "We all know we'll be stared at, we have a Hyuga on our team."

She flinched slightly, "I'm sorry."

Kiba-kun sighed loudly and turned towards the direction she pointed to, “How ‘bout I go say hi—by myself—and then come back over here— *subtly* .”

She wrung her hands, “Would i-it be rude not to?”

“No,” Shino replied, looking around behind his dark glasses, “It would not be smart, nor is it rude. We should find our seats before the proctors arrive.”

Hinata, who had been watching the room, suddenly let out a quiet gasp. Her two teammates turned to her alarmed and she stuttered a reply, “S-S-Sakura-chan and h-her team are here!”

Kiba jerked back and Akamaru, who was hiding under his hood, barked, “Really? Sakura is here and Ino? That...makes no sense. What are they both doing here?”

Shino-kun turned to him interested, “Why, does that mean you don't think they should be here?”

Kiba rolled his eyes, “No, but they didn't mention they were going to be participating or that they even wanted to take them.”

Hinata listened to them quietly speak, but her focus was on the bright new source who entered the room.

Naruto-kun stood with Sakura-chan and Uchiha-san. His bright blonde hair and orange outfit put together. He was looking around excitedly, and seemed to be talking back-and-forth with his teammates animatedly. Her face was very red as she watched him walk over to their other classmates.

“—and I think it would be beneficial to see them; afterall we are all here representing the Leaf. And I doubt any of us really think they will pass,” Kiba-kun finished daringly. His hood shook as Akamaru moved.

Shino-kun looked down before nodding, “Yes, we should go see them. Why? Because it might lessen the shock or resentment they will have later on if we do not greet them.”

Kiba turned to her, “You alright saying hi to the other teams?”

She stared at him. Her shoulders straightened, “Y-Yes, we should say hello. They w-were our friends and now our comrades.”

He blinked at her and then grinned widely, “Cool, let's go greet the losers.”

Shino sighed again.

They dodged the people as they all made their way to the other two teams. People sat at their desks, no longer lounging around but instead getting ready for the tests.

Kiba shoved past another person who gave them a dirty look. Finally, they were in front of the six others.

Shino-kun stood stiffly next to her and spoke tactically, “This is going to be a waste of time.”

She peeked at him, “What do you mean?”

“The exam is about to begin,” A bug flew past her and landed on his jacket, “We should be taking our seats. Not greeting our old classmates.”

Her short hair cocked, “Why did you a-agree to Kiba-kun’s request?”

He spoke coolly, “He can be frustrating when he doesn't get her way.”

She tutted quietly, “Don't be mean, he's just h-happy to see his friends.”

“I know,” He mumbled, “But we do not want to disappoint our sensei. Why shouldn't we put all of our effort in?”

She smiled softly, “She has hope. It doesn't mean—”

“Hey Hinata!” A loud voice shouted next to her face.

Red quickly rose over her features and her eyes widened, “N-N-Naruto-kun—!”

“Hey,” He exclaimed at her, “I think we sit next to each other! Kiba said you were in the front.”

Her throat was clogged and she nodded quickly and felt excitement creeping up, *she and Naruto-kun, next to each other?* “Y-yes, I-I am.”

“Great, i'm glad to at least sit next to somebody I know,” He shrugged his skinny shoulders, “Sakura is right behind us but Sasuke is *way* in the back.”

“I am also in the front,” Shino suddenly said. She jumped at his voice, and looked at them through his glasses, “I however, am at the first row versus you two who are at the fourth.”

Naruto narrowed his blue eyes at him, “Really? That sucks.”

“Hinata,” Kiba walked to her, “Come on, you have to actually talk to my friends.”

He grabbed her hand and she ground her feet in. Turning to Naruto and felt the air leave her lungs as they made eye contact. He smiled at her, “See you at the test!”

A smile pulled at her lips and her blush lessened, “Thank you, Naruto-kun.” She gripped Kiba’s hand and walked side-by-side with him to meet Ino and Sakura-chan.

He glanced at her, “Sorry, I thought he might be bothering you.”

She gaped at him, “N-No! I w-wasnt being bothered. He-He was nice.”

“If you're sure,” His slitted eyes were suspicious, “But I don't trust him. He smells...strange and I always trust my senses.” Akamaru barked, agreeing.

She looked back to see Naruto clearly irritating Shino-kun, "I don't think he means any harm."

"Naruto never means harm," A dry voice said next to them.

Shikamaru-san and Chouji-san stood together off to the side. Nara-san stood with his arms crossed and his hair pulled tightly up in a ponytail. She should see his earrings swing as he stared at them. Chouji-san, she noted, was wearing multiple packs around his body.

"Yeah," Kiba-kun mocked, "Doesn't make him less weird."

"And you having hands and feet doesn't make you less of a *dog*," Shikamaru drawled. Chouji-san waved at her.

They sneered at each other and Ino-chan, who was very bright with her pale wheat coloured hair, jumped in.

"Shika! Don't be mean!" She cried out, her own pupil less eyes glaring him down, "You can't call my friends dogs!"

He huffed, unfurling his arms, "You call him a dog all the time."

"He's *my* friend," She tossed her long hair, "And you can't mock them, only I can."

"Sure," He turned to Sakura-chan who was watching the scene, "Don't worry, I wasn't going to call you a dog. Only the one with a puppy stuffed in his hoodie."

Kiba and Ino gasped, while Sakura only grinned, "Thanks, I thought you might confuse me with a pink poodle."

Shikamaru-san snorted, "At least one of you can take a joke." He glanced at her, "Hinata."

She waved, "Hello, Shikamaru and Chouji-san. And Ino-chan. And Sakura-chan."

Ino bounced over, "Hinata-chan! How are you? Kiba says you and Shino are excited for the exams!" Her voice was overly-friendly but Hinata shyly smiles back anyways.

"G-Good, I'm happy to see you and your team," She stuttered.

"Shika and Chouji?" She rolled her eyes, "Sure, they don't even want to be here. So I'm sure they're pleased to see you as well."

"We're here aren't we," Shikamaru called, turning around and nudging his best friend towards Shino and Nartuo.

"Ignore them," Ino-chan said loudly, "They're just lazy asses who want to quit while we're ahead!"

Hinata gaped and was pulled over by Ino to Sakura.

“Sakura, say hi! She met your brother the other day and she needs all the help she can get!” Ino said playfully.

Sakura rolled her green eyes, “He's not that bad.”

“He’s *terrifying*, ” Ino enunciated her words, “He attacked me with adorable tiny pigs. For ‘*training*’ and he threw mud at me!”

Sakura-chan was grinning largely, “Sounds tame.”

“ *It was not!* ” She exclaimed shrilly.

Sakura rolled her eyes, “Hi Hinata, you look nice! I hope you can deal with Naruto sitting next to you.”

“He’ll probably try and cheat off her,” Kiba-kun grumbled.

She waved her hands hastily, “No, no, no, it's fine. I'm sure he won't cheat. And Naruto-kun is very nice, he doesn't bother me at all.”

All three of them narrowed their eyes at her. Sakura opened her mouth, “Do you like—”

Someone laughed near them loudly. They turned to see a tall boy with white/silver hair pulled back. He was talking to Shikamaru, Chouji, Naruto, Shino and Sasuke, who must have made his way over. The guy was holding out a deck of cards with a sly grin.

“That guy smells like a snake,” Kiba groaned, holding his nose.

“How weird is that?” Sakura-chan asked worriedly.

“Very,” He gagged, “Actually, the whole room kinda smells like rotting snake.”

“What d-does that mean?” She looked at him.

“Gross,” He shook his head, “And it's too strong to be a summon or pet. Something *way* worse. Makes me think of someone who is always lying.”

“So we shouldn't trust him?” Ino raised her plucked brows.

“I wouldn't,” He shook his head and Akamaru whined.

Hinata stared at the five and the guy talking with them. He was holding out cards and speaking rapidly. She silently activated her Byakugan.

The cards were covered in chakra. Used to keep the items hidden from user sights. There is extensive work on the back to allow information to flow through it.

She narrowed her bulging eyes, those cards (paper?) were extremely thorough and high ranking. A simple genin would never have something so powerful.

“What do you see?” Kiba-kun whispered to her.

“Th-Those cards,” She said, “They're a lot stronger than they seem. At least a chunin rank would be needed to have them. At least a jounin to make them.”

“What's on them?” Ino asked.

She shook her head, “They are blocked by some type of jutsu.”

“SILENCE MAGOTS!”

They all turned to see a giant puff of smoke.

“TAKE YOUR SEATS AND LISTEN TO ME!”

A crack and the gas slowly cleared to reveal a massive group of people with one man at the front. He had a long black coat and his face had deep scarring over it. His dark eyes looked over them. He smirked at them.

“I am Ibiki Morino, proctor of the first part of the Chunin Exams. Sit down, or get out.”

She turned to the other and everyone scrambled to find their chairs. She slowly and cautiously pushed past everyone to the front. She crept past and sat down at her seat and waited for Naruto to show up.

Shino was already at his seat. She could see that Chouji-san was near him. She didn't recognize anyone else nearby.

Suddenly Naruto threw himself into the chair next to her. He put his head down and covered his head with her hand. She paused and instead allowed his silence.

“The first part of your test is written,” Morino-sama said, “I will take no questions, so listen!”

She swallowed and watched as paper was handed out.

“First rules: The test will be ten questions and each is ten points. You will gain a point every time you get an answer right. Second rule: The teams will pass or fail based on all three members of one genin team.” Multiple people groaned. She watched as Naruto fist-pumped to himself. “Finally, the sentinels around the room will be watching for cheating. For every *incident* they spot you lose two points.” *Strange*, she thought, *they won't fail you? Just take points? Better not cheat, I don't know if I can answer all the questions correctly.*

“But be warned, if you are caught more than five times. You will be dismissed before any grading. If you wish to ever become chunin then show us all the subtlety of being proper shinobi.” He said with a wide grin.

“However, there is one more thing,” He continued, “If any candidate gets exactly zero points...everyone on that team will fail.

Hinata winced, Kiba-kun had the worst test scores besides Naruto-kun in their class. But he has been studying so hopefully he will at least get one question right. Shino-kun will no doubt get flawless scores.

Naruto seemed to recede into himself and she quietly asked him, “Are you alright?”

He seemed to not hear her and she went red. Looking back down at her paper.

“The last question will be held till the last fifteen minutes. The test will be one hour in its entirety,” He paused and looked up at a clock that was ticking down. “Begin!”

Chapter End Notes

I have been watching My hero academia....Strange show. I really fucking hate the main character, Midoriya.

I know im not supposed to lol

Next chap is technoblade shit.

Technoblade Thirteen

Chapter Notes

WE'RE IN

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Techno did not know how long he had to be completely alone.

With everyone busy dealing with the Exams, he was alone without anyone to even check up on him. He had no sister, no teachers, nor extra kids to bother him—his parents already let him run around, they understand he can take care of himself.

He had searched for a large empty space and found himself settling on Sakura's training ground. The massive grounds are isolated and hidden from the main path; you can't find him unless actively searching for him.

Truthfully he's been extremely uncomfortable as he set up for the area. Chat has been jumping between screaming warnings and caution and silently murmuring among themselves. They tried convincing him to abandon any idea of exploring the 'inner place' and receding into himself. Calling him crude names and pushing for his mods to stop him. They cried, saying he could get killed or worse, lost. He pushed past any of their feelings.

The dirt area he cleared out was hidden in the trees. He had attached ninja wire around the trunks and attached them to wrists and ankles, hoping to keep him from moving much if something did...find their way into his empty shell. He set-up paper bombs around the area to go off if touched or stepped on. He trapped the entire area to keep anyone in or out.

He refused to admit to himself that he held any fear. In the SMP his 'power' was well known and clearly defined and he never needed any more information on why he was the way he was.

Phil had something similar. His crows, which spoke and followed him. He could easily dismiss and shoo any of them. They were also the dead, but they held no control over them. Unlike his, which were in his head, and could severely impact his life and decisions. They were at different strengths and in SMP could even give him things.

Wilbur... Wilbur had something. He didn't hear anything at all. He didn't see anything. But... he had known something was there. *(Later on in his life he had begun seeing eyes following him around. Eyes on buttons, eyes in the sky, eyes in the walls. He insisted they were watching him, as if he was entertaining them.)*

Tommy had been completely oblivious to any audience they had. Never hearing anything nor seeing. He never even sensed anything, no feelings of unease or disturbance.

He's never seen anything like the strange abilities he had now. They almost seemed to have mutated, altered and adjusted to this new world and its weird rules. And the only answer as to why this happened is to do something that could directly kill him.

He laid out the blanket across the ground and sat on it. He reached over and mechanically wrapped his ankles with the wire. His wrists slipped onto the premade knots.

The wire was strong enough to *(hopefully)* resist him at full strength. He had no knives or weapons near him or around him. Hopefully he was completely ready for what would happen.

Techno...

Its not fucking worth it

This is going to be fun!

Stfu

You have no idea the chaos this shit will cause

technoL

Or...one of us?

This isnt fucking smart, i didnt know you were so stupid

He ignored the harsh tones and anger of Chat. He sat back and laid his hands over his knees.

He took in the green trees, and the cool wind on his skin. He appreciated the peace of the area. The sun was warm today, not a cloud in the sky. The typical humidity of the country of fire was missing. The trees, that tower as tall as any spruce, were completely still and dark. No animals or people in sight. None of his swine have been around, mayhaps because he doesn't know what will happen if he does die. Perhaps he'll go back home.

He closed his eyes and let his mind wander.

What does it mean to recede in, he absentmindedly thought, to clear your mind? Or to think of something specific?

Man has no idea what he's doing L

Good

TechnoDumb

technoUMB

Nerrrrd

Push away any thoughts.

Techno L—wait what?

Techno slowly breathed in and felt his brown coat whip around in the sudden breeze. The thoughts of the outside world were thrown away allowing him to only listen and focus on the voices stuck revolving around his head.

Is that fucker back?!

who unbanned them????

Dont fucking listen to them

STFu nerd

~~*Focus on us, the chat, you need to only hear and feel us.*~~

Fucking ban them

For the first time in a long time, he allowed Chat to fully overwhelm his senses...and it was *loud* . The normal echoing in his head threatened to swallow him whole.

WHO IS THIS

DONT LISTEN

IGNORE THEM

FUCKING WAKE UP!!!!

ONE OF US

NO STOP

~~*Keep pushing through until the noise is so loud you cannot hear anything else. You will lose track of the feeling on the outside, a sort of...numbness.*~~

ONE OF US

WHAT ABOUT SAKURA????

He flinched at the reminder of his sister, but he pushed through. Feeling like he's floating, his head which had begun to pound suddenly stopped. It doesn't even feel like he's sitting anymore.

IS HE THERE?

SEE HIM!

GO BACK

WHAT DOES HE SEE?

HELLO?

GO BACK REN

TECHNO LEAVE.

~~Relax, you are almost there. If you aren't completely calm when passing through you could get stuck in the in-between.~~

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

The voices which seemed to echo in his head, no longer resided there. It sounded as if he was getting screamed at by a figure in front of him. He couldn't feel any part of his body. There was no breeze, no sound, no warmth of the sun. He smelt nothing or felt nothing. He felt as if he was standing in a void.

WHO IS HE?

WHAT DOES HE WANT?

LEAVE TECHNOBLADE.

CAN YOU SEE ME?

ARE MY CHILDREN SAFE?!

WHERE AM I?

TECH DONT LOOK U—

He opened his eyes.

Chapter End Notes

OOPS

sorry I honestly was gonna write more but I realized how long the chap would be. cause a lots supposed to happen. next chap is going to be kinda long now, and I will have more time to write it.

Sakura Sixteen

Chapter Notes

OOPS

wrong pov

hope you don't mind the entire ibiki part of the exam! But don't worry! We will get techno!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Sakura truly doesn't think they will be moving past the written part of this test. Whether it was the fact that they only had a few days to get ready and that they used *none* of that time to study in the library; Naruto was not...smart.

He was street smart—smarter than her on that level. But an open ended test with maths questions involving high level algebra and cognitive thinking? They were screwed.

She was unsure how many points they needed to pass—perhaps it was just to not fail? Not—get caught—cheating more than five times or score an absolute zero. All Naruto needed to do was get *one* question right. Nothing else. Hopefully if there's anything else her and Sasuke's test scores will carry the team.

After he called for them to begin, she quickly turned the page over to see the ten questions. She scribbled her name on and took the first questions...then the second question...then the third.

Her jaw was dropped reading through them. The first question was no doubt the easiest but that said nothing about the rest of the test. It was one of the hardest tests she'd ever seen. Far harder than anything they did at the academy. She groaned quietly, hopefully Naruto was able to guess the first one (*I doubt even Sasuke will be able to answer the second half of these*).

However, she didn't get the highest scores for paper tests and maths for nothing. She set to work.

The first four were basic if you know the formulas. The middle of the paper used word problems to confuse anyone not used to using numbers or graphs, question five through seven were like this.

She noted as she circled her answer for the seventh question, that the room was eerily busy. She could spot people writing aggressively, rushing through the hour—

A kunai knife flew from the proctor hands and she and multiple people gasped. The person whose test was hit stood. He stared scared at the terrifying proctor.

“What was that for, sir?” He shouted.

One of the sentinels who were next to him smirked, “Five times. You and your team fail!”

“No! That's not—”

“You and your team need to leave immediately. Leave your tests and get out,” He called. The sentinels all seemed to write quicker and more obvious and it clicked for Sakura.

Everyone's cheating, on purpose! That's what they want! You just can't get caught, she was dizzy at the thought. She also felt a little more smug, she hasn't needed to cheat at all to get over half-way done.

Suddenly it was like the floodgates were opened. People were getting called left and right, cheaters were getting thrown out with their teammates angrily following. She looked on baffled as more and more people were thrown out for some of the most obvious things (They are ninja! Who's peeking at their neighbours paper?!).

She also found herself using her arm to cover the paper from any nosy people looking to get an easy target. She rushed through the last of the problems hoping no one would see anything if she flipped it over fast enough.

Perhaps the tenth question will be an essay? Or even a random history question? If it was following the pattern it would be the hardest question on the entire paper.

She slammed her pencil down and flipped over her paper. She covered it with her arms and hoped no one could see her work.

Maybe Naruto is a good cheater? He is a bit of a prankster...I hope Sasuke isn't relying on his eyes too much, they aren't exactly subtle.

She blinked her eyes and stared down at her hands. They looked strange...like farther away...she focused her suddenly out of focus eyes. Her hands flexed, except...

“You really keep this place clean, don't you?”

Ino-chan! She must have hit her with her Mind Transfer Jutsu!

“Sorry, Sakura! But you are easily the smartest person I know! And you're sitting right in front of me! They won't suspect a thing.”

She watched as her hands picked up and flipped back over her test. Her own eyes watched as Ino copied over the paper.

She couldn't help quietly hoping she would copy the questions wrong.

“Don't be like that, I'm sorry I'm not smart enough to answer every question! But you are my best friend, and this test wants us to cheat, Ibiki-sama said so himself.”

Ibiki-sama, huh? You know him?

“Yep! He works with my dad in T&I, he's known for uh...the T in T&I.”

Torture?!?

“...maybe...”

She felt an unnatural smirk crawl onto her face. Ino's control over her body was far subtler than when they were younger, much less obtrusive. She barely noticed when it happened.

“Awe, thanks! I tried to make it as easy as possible to not hurt you. And, hah! I have gotten better! Sorry for practising on you when we were younger...”

It's okay, it never hurts. I'm glad you've gotten better.

Ino turned the paper back over and laid Sakura's head over to look like she covering it.

“I hope you and Sasuke-kun pass! I can't wait to see how good you have gotten. Shika is using his Shadow Jutsu on Chouji to give him his answer so I hope we see you two in the next part of the Exam!”

Bye, Ino.

Sakura watched as her vision sharpened and felt her head clear. She blinked quickly, and brought her hands over the desk and laid it across and picked her head back up. The clock was ticking down quickly and her head still felt slightly fuzzy.

She picked her pencil backup and prepared for the final question.

The proctor called their attention.

“ALL RIGHT!

The now halved room stared at him nervous.

“LISTEN UP FOR THE TENTH AND FINAL QUESTION!”

She hoped Naruto had at least one answer on his paper.

“But...before I give it to you. This last one constitutes a small *shift* in the rules.”

He is changing the rules, now!?

Someone who left the room entered. They all turned to see Sand-nin covered in all black attire. He seemed to stare at them baffled.

“Aren't you lucky?” The proctor yelled, “Perhaps wasting time playing *dolls* in the bathroom enlightened you?! Sit down!”

The boy casually walked back to his seat.

“The change in rules is simple. Everyone in this room may choose whether to take the tenth question.” He seemed to take glee in watching them struggle to understand his reasoning.

The Sand-nin girl with a strong accent yelled out, “What's the catch?”

“If you decide to not take the question...your score will be zero. In other words...you fail! You and, of course, your whole team!”

Sakura gaped at him and the other genin seemed to be in shock.

“And the other new rule...” He chuckled cruelly and his face bunched from his scars. “If you do decide to take the tenth question, but find yourself answering it incorrectly...you will not only fail...YOU WILL BE BARRED FROM EVER TAKING THE CHUNIN EXAM EVER AGAIN!”

Sakura felt dizzy in her seat. She almost felt like tipping over. The loud protest of the other students was numb to her ears—all she could do was stare at Naruto.

Naruto...who probably struggled with the easiest question. Now, he would have to answer this one correctly and if she was correct...this would be the hardest one on the entire test. But Naruto and Sasuke want to be chunin *more* than anything. And everyone knows Naruto is too prideful to not take the question.

She felt numb sitting stiffly in her seat.

She watched as Kiba stood up with Akamaru on his head loudly yelling, “That bull! Loads of people here have taken this thing dozens of times! How is that any fair to the ones taking it for the first time!?”

The proctor laughed loudly in response, “Guess you're just unlucky.”

Kiba sat down with anger and shock on his face.

“I am the proctor this year, which means...” He grinned sharply, “I make the rules. And you all have to follow them.”

Sakura kept her eyes on Naruto. She couldn't tell anything from back but he looked tense and Hinata looked deeply concerned.

Maybe I should take the fall?

“Of course, you don't have to take it. I did say it was optional. Then in the next six months you can run off to someone more ‘fair’ and take it again. Only those confident in your abilities will find any ease here!”

Can Naruto answer it? Or will he have to suffer the embarrassment of getting the three of us thrown out of here?

“Now then, the tenth question...if any of you would like to leave and not take it...raise your hands.”

Nobody moved for a second and she felt nausea crawl up, *Should she do it? I want to be a chunin. Sasuke wants to be a chunin. Even Naruto does! And they could always take it again...*

Suddenly a hand raised. They all turned, stunned to see someone quitting so close to passing.

“I’m out,” They said, “I can’t take the chance.”

Again, it broke a piece and dozens of the halved crowd were raising their hands. She watched as again over half of the few people here left. She stared at Naruto and felt her hand shake.

They would hate me. But they would learn to understand...Naruto might even be thankful.

More and more people were leaving. The tables were emptying and she was able to spot multiple people in her graduating class hanging around. She also spotted their allies. The three Sand-nin were here. But...

Her hand slowly crept up and she could hear Ino gasp loudly behind her.

But before she could put her hand fully up in the air. Naruto flung his own hand up. She froze, green eyes wide at the sight. Hinata looked alarmed, even sad. She slowly pulled her own hand down and defeat hung across her shoulders.

Sakura’s shoulders slumped and she prepared herself to be asked to leave.

However, Naruto’s hand came right back down and slammed against the table. Shocking the entire room into silence.

“You shouldn’t underestimate *me*! I’m not leaving! You can act tough and scare others! But you won’t frighten me away so easily! So! Bring it! The tenth question!” He loudly proclaimed to the proctor and his sentinels. Confidence shot out from his body. She gaped at him.

A smile pulled at her lips. Of course, Naruto would do this. Take the test no matter what. Even if he would fall.

She still couldn’t help feeling nervous. But she assured herself, *if Naruto is confident enough in himself, I should be confident in him.*

She nodded to herself, ready to take the final question. She noted that fewer people were leaving after Naruto’s proclamation. He must have made everyone else feel brave. She smiled wryly.

“No one else?” He called out, “Not one is nervous about the question?”

Not one person moved.

“I admire your determination,” he smirked, “Alright then, for those of you still here...the tenth question...”

She clutched her pencil.

“...the things I have to tell you...”

She sat straighter.

“...you all... *pass* .”

She collapsed back into her chair.

The genin were stunned into silence.

“There was no tenth question. Never was.” He chuckled, “It was all only ever a ruse.”

Someone's chair scraped against the floor, “Were we ever going to be barred?!”

He smirked, “A ruse. All you needed to do was have the assurance in yourself and your team enough to stay and take what seemed like an impossible challenge.”

The room erupted into cheers and she felt a tap on her shoulder. She turned to Ino who was grinning widely, “What were you doing, almost raising your hand!” She chided her.

Sakura smiled back relieved, “I'm glad I didn't!”

“BE QUIET!” Their attention was brought back to the proctor. “Now as someone asked me while you were all talking, no the other nine questions did not mean nothing. They were meant for you to gather information without giving yourself away. Cheating without being caught.”

She grinned to herself.

“I'm sure many of you noticed how difficult the questions were. Thus we had a few of our own chunin hidden in the room, writing alongside you with the only assured answers in the room. All of you here are here because you were not caught nor do you fold under the brutalist challenge I could offer (*without killing you*). Thus all of you pass and may move onto the second stage.”

Naruto cheers loudly and she could imagine Sasuke leaning back smugly in his chair.

A loud crack and glass exploded from the windows. A shadow flew in and everyone gasped and a smoke bomb was thrown.

A massive sheet hung in the air.

The woman in front however was far more eye-catching. Sakura could imagine Hinata blushing heavily at the sight. *Or any of the guys...*

The woman with cool toned hair pulled up wore...a dress? A bodysuit made entirely of mesh covered her upper body (*with nothing else*) . She had a skirt wrapped around and her own coat. But uh...

She heard Ino gasp behind her and she felt like giggling.

“I am the proctor for the second exam! Anko Mitarashi!” She announced loudly, “Are you ready to move on to the second part of your exams?! Yes?! Ready?! Follow me!”

Chapter End Notes

also, my foots wayyy better.

been over two weeks. I can walk around but can't put all my pressure on it.

also...still don't like Midoriya...expect when he's with Yagi. I like those two dumbasses together.

Technoblade Fourteen

Chapter Notes

holy shit
it's here

pog

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

This world was ice cold.

It bit at his exposed hands and face. There was no breeze or wind. It was stale, hard to breathe. He twitched and attempted to move his feet—it was like prowling through the slush. He noted the snow falling from the sky. It melted when it touched but left no feeling of water.

His eyes took in the area he was in.

It looked like he was standing in darkness. He could see no ground or sky, no direction. The yelling he heard around him was nowhere to be seen. There were no people or even...

“Hello?” He cleared his throat.

Silence and then a wave of noise went over him.

HELLO—

WHERE IS MY BABY—

IS THAT YOU—

CAN YOU COME CLOSER—

And then it was gone. Like the ocean crashing over him and pulling away, he could breathe again.

He let out a loud gasp and looked around, “Where is everyone?”

Another long pause then...

CAN YOU SEE ME—

I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING—

TECHNO YOU NEED TO CALM DO—

REN OR TECHNO—

Then it was gone.

He held his chest and closed his eyes. The area and feel of this place made him feel almost overwhelmed when the voices hit. However, he needed to push through and focus on the voices while attempting to search for those who were useful.

His voice was low, “Can you show yourselves?”

He waited and braced for the wave.

LOOK DEEPER—

WE ARE HERE—

WHO IS SPEAKING—

TECHNO OVER HERE—

He kept his eyes open and attempted to hold onto the voices. In a flash, it looked like the darkness was filled with bodies and eyes but then it was gone.

He grits his teeth, “Where are you? I need to see all of you.”

They came.

STOP YELLING—

WHO IS THIS BOY—

HAVE YOU SEEN MY SON—

TECHNO FOCUS—

He locked onto the last voice.

TECHNO LOOK FOR ME IN THE CROWD—

He froze seeing the now full abyss. People were everywhere and they were all staring at him.

NOT THEM. ME. LOOK FOR ME—

He attempted to calm himself and searched for the voice. This place was now filled with rotten, dead people. Staring and watching him move with difficulty. As he got closer to some of them, he noted some of their appearances. Many were normal looking with simple injuries but the ones with dark hair and no eyes freaked him out the most.

DONT TOUCH THEM, YOU ARE GETTING CLOSER—

He slowly mushed past the ominous figures. They parted for him like the red sea. No touching but clearly watching on with interest. He blinked and realized they were all moving their mouths, clearly talking with no sound. He shoved that away before he lost his focus on the current voice.

YES! OVER HERE—

He grunted as he pushed past the last edge. He looked around the area he was in.

It was exactly the same as everywhere else, there was no evidence he ever travelled. The dead people were still watching him. Surrounding him and talking with no noise.

He looked for the voice who he had followed, “Hello?”

Silence.

His brows furrowed, “Where did you—”

“Hello!”

He spun around and saw no one sticking out. He clenched his fist, “Hello?”

“Hey!”

He waited a moment, “Where are you?”

“I’m right behind you, obviously.”

He turned around and stared at the figure that now stood in his path. They were clearly young, however, they wore typical ninja gear. He struggled closer, “Who are you?”

They lifted their dark head up and he briefly paused at the obviously missing eyes, “*What? Can you see me now?*” They asked sarcastically. He noted the words didn’t match his mouth movement.

“Yes, who are you and why can I hear you?” He stood right in front of him.

They cocked their head and their face slowly became more clear, “*Im an Uchiha, clearly. If you can’t tell from...*” He gestured to his eyes playfully.

“Like that Sasuke kid,” He stated.

“Oh, you know Itachi’s brother?” He straightened up.

“Itachi?” He pursed his lips in distaste, “The...brother?”

They shook their head and seemed to glide closer, “*What do you have against Itachi?*”

“A lot,” He mumbled, looking around, “Who are you?”

The boy, who was his age, looked at him with a grin, “*Shisui, you?*”

“Re—” He paused, “Techno. Call me Techno.”

He cocked his head, *“Alright, Tech-no.”*

Techno felt his chest tighten and a small smile pull at his lips, “Okay, do you know anything?”

Shisui stopped and let out a laugh, *“I don't think you care for what I know.”*

“Then I need to find someone who does,” He grunted, looking around.

“Rude,” He heard mumbled, *“So what do you need to know—cause I have never seen anyone like you here.”* He moved with ease on the slushy ground and came to stand next to him.

Techno thought about it, “I guess I need to know about this place and if it's connected to other worlds and If I can access those.”

Shisui froze but bounced back quickly, *“Other worlds? Never seen or heard of those. By the way, who are you? How are you even here? I thought only dead people could come here?”*

He began walking in a random direction, ignoring the floating dead bodies, “It's a...kekkei genkai. And this is the first time I'm using it like this. And, yes, other worlds. There should be people here who know about it.” *This guy loves to talk, huh?*

“A kekkei genkai that lets you come here,” He shook his head, *“That must suck.”*

Techno huffed, “Says the Uchiha.”

He let out a laugh, *“Yeah, I guess I can't really say anything. I mean...I did die because of my eyes.”*

Techno rolled his and dryly said, “Couldn't tell.”

He shook his head and tutted, *“Your sympathy is...astounding.”*

He kept walking with a sigh, “Sure, my sympathy. Do you know anyone...strong or knowing around here?”

He held up a finger, *“Not really! Most people are like, stuck in their own heads. I can't really talk to anyone here. Well...here.”*

He turned to him sharply, “‘Here?’ What does that mean?”

He shrugged casually, *“Sometimes I'll come across people who I can talk to. But never here. Mostly like, on the outside. When I'm wondering and there is nobody around. I once ran into a Senju named Butsu—”*

Techno nodded to himself, *away from all of these people. Into the abyss.* He paused, “How long were you walking for?”

Shisui let out a long sigh, *"I'm starting to think you don't actually like me—"*

"How long?" He asked again.

He waved his hand with a shrug, *"I have no idea. Time passes differently here. I don't even know how long I've been dead."*

You can get lost, he remembered suddenly, "How long do you...think you've been dead?" *Perhaps he can gauge how long the feeling of being gone was.*

"Well," He tapped his chin, *"Must have been a few. Not too long. Itachi would be here. And you mentioned Sasuke....maybe five years?"*

Five years...at minimum, "How old was Sasuke?"

"Maybe seven? Or somewhere close to that," He bounced alongside him.

"Almost eight years," He stated, "It's been eight years since you died."

"Oh! I was close," He sounded excited.

He paused, "The Uchiha weren't killed seven years ago. They were killed only six years ago." He noted that the strange snow was falling faster, although it wasn't piling on the thick snow-covered ground.

Shisui seemed to stare at him, *"You did say you don't care for what I know."*

"You said I wouldn't care," He shrugged off his unease, "Now, maybe I do."

Shisui suddenly stood next to him, *"I don't think you do. I think you just would like answers."*

Techno looked up at the fast-falling flakes that seemed to be sticking to him now, "Who else are you going to tell them to?"

Shisui paused, *"I'll tell you later when you actually want to know."*

Techno attempted to wipe off the snow, "Sure, until then, I'm going to keep walking," He said nonchalantly.

He snorted, *"And I'm going to follow you—this is the most interesting shit to happen in, apparently, years."*

Techno coughed and trudged along in the random direction has chosen. The air was colder and yet there was still no breeze. The snow that was falling gave him no feeling when it touched and stuck to him. There were no people anymore, they had walked far enough for no dead bodies to be hanging around in clusters. He could barely walk and it was getting harder to see. Shisui did end up walking with him. Randomly talking about things and asking about him and who he was and what he wanted from finding anyone.

He suddenly paused and let out a loud cough. He noted the lack of breath in the air. He was still in his outfit from when he tied himself up and came here.

“—but they weren't very happy when I disagreed. I don't think they liked me very much...why are we stopping?” Shisui paused in front of him and turned around.

Techno looked around, “I don't know where we are.”

Shisui cocked his head, *“Isn't that the point? Wonder in a random direction and hope we run into someone important.”*

Techno could feel his body begin shivering and he let out another cough, “No—something is wrong.” He let out a hard cough and his hands came to his arms.

“Oh, shit,” He heard murmur as he rushed over, *“Stay awake! I don't know what will happen if you pass out.”*

“I'm not going to pass out,” He breathed in and held his breath, “I might go into shock.”

Shisui seemed to glance around aimlessly, *“I-I don't know where we are.”*

Techno could feel his knees buckling and he glared up at him, “You don't know? How strange, it's almost like we are walking in an endless world.”

“Not really,” He sounded anxious. *“This place has rules but I have never seen it do this before. It should have been getting brighter with autumn leaves raining from the sky. Not snow harder!”*

Strong arms grabbed Techno and held him up as his body shivering increased, *“You gotta leave—go back to the real world. You can't stay here—I don't know if you'd die.”*

Techno shook his head and his eyesight flickered with black dots and he slurred out, “Can't—I need to find information.”

“I'm taking you back to the middle. Maybe it won't be snowing there,” He could feel his body being picked up and he shivered heavily. He let out another barking cough and he wheezed slightly. He hasn't felt like this in a long time. Far after this life and barely into his first. He was getting dragged by his shoulders to where he began and he struggled lightly. He didn't want to be near all those other people. He doesn't understand this world yet, he doesn't know what they can do to him, *I mean, Shisui is literally dragging him right now.*

“—don't sleep. Stay awake and listen to me talk. Even if you think I'm annoying and probably an idiot. I'm not, I'm offended you would even think so! I was a capable shinobi! Not my fault I was too capable!” Techno groaned, listening to him ramble.

“—You have to get back. You have to tell Sasuke to go after Itachi. He has to, or the plan won't work. Then this will all be for nothing. You have to warn Kakashi-senpai about Obito —”

He blinked out of consciousness and noted the snow was coming down harder and faster.

“—You could warn the village about fucking Danzo and his fucking Root. You have to go back. You need to fix this! Stay awake.”

He stared at his dragging feet thoughtlessly. Shisui’s words were going in and then out. He felt dazed and the lack of noise from this world made his ears ring. He furrowed his brow at the colour he saw.

“Yellow,” He mumbled dazed.

“—I hope this isn't all for nothing—what did you say?” He asked anxiously.

The yellow seemed to be getting closer, “Yellow.” He whispered through dry lips.

He paused and seemed to look back. Suddenly Techno was being pulled faster and he could hear curses from Shisui.

“We’re being followed, fuck, fuck. You need to go back. Stay the fuck awake,” He hissed at him as he continued dragging him through the intense snowstorm.

The yellow jumped as if shocked before also following quickly with little pauses. Techno watched it, blinking slowly, he watched as a hand came from yellow and attempted to grab his foot. It was a grey hand.

Shisui seemed to be running in circles as he noted the storm only getting worse and he was covered in white specs.

“—Who the hell, how does this exist? Is there even an exit, what the hell—!” They skid to a stop and Techno was dropped into the fake snow. He let out a shiver and he blinked out for a moment and back in to hear two people talking. However, what truly caught his attention was the warmth that sat over his legs.

He blinked slowly and looked down.

“B’ue,” He slurred, looking at the blue blob on him.

“Oh! That's just Friend! Don't mind him,” A cheerful, airy voice called, *“He's just keeping you warm, Techno.”*

The voice struck something in his chest and he felt tears rise up. He looked down at the suddenly familiar sheep, “Friend.”

The blue sheep turned to him and baaed loudly.

“—I got to get him back. He knows too much to die now...” He heard quietly. He shivering pulled himself up and reached out and pat Friend’s large blue figure. It was warm and thick and felt like the wool in the SMP. He felt his chest stop moving. He knew that yellow figure.

“—he’s a friend of mine. I want him safe. Please don't use him for—” Techno pushed himself up and pulled his feet out from under the warm sheep.

He stood on shaky, unsure legs and Friend stood and leaned against him.

“I’m sorry—he’s alive. He can go back—”

“—I need him happy—”

“—I need my family happy—”

He walked over to the arguing two and stared at the yellow figure and felt like he couldn't breathe. The giant figure was all in grey except for his warm yellow sweater.

They seemed to realise they had an audience and paused. Shisui with no eyes turned to him, *“Are you okay?”*

He ignored him and stared without breathing at the other figure. They waved jolly to him, *“Hi Techno! Long time no see!”*

Techno felt choked, *“Wilbur?”*

The tall ghostly form of his past brother paused, *“Ghostbur.”*

Techno stumbled forward to him and Ghostbur hastily opened his arms and allowed him to fall into them with a gasp. Techno clutched at his brother’s yellow sweater through tears and felt his heart crack under the pressure.

Ghostbur tugged him closer happily and mumbled quietly, *“I missed you too.”*

Chapter End Notes

:)

Kakashi Nine

Chapter Notes

a Kakashi interlude!

i mainly wanted the other jounin to show up. they were missing out!

60 chap is also cool

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

“Mind If I sit here?” A deep smooth voice asked.

Kakashi’s gaze barely moved from his book, “Sure.”

“Great,” Multiple people sat around him and Kakashi rolled his eye.

Kakashi thumbed over his page, “I meant only you, Asuma.”

Asuma lit a cigarette, “Too bad you didn’t look up to see me gesturing to all of us, huh?”

Kakashi looked between the other two who sat down, “What do you all want?”

Gai leaned over, “You see, my youthful rival, we noticed among the rookies—”

“Did my father tell you to submit your team?” Asuma interrupted.

Kakashi rubbed his chin, “Mhm, your father? Who? Do you mean the Hoka—”

“The Hokage, my father,” Asuma puffed, “You know the guy? He’s kind of important.”

Kurenai sighed loudly and scooted closer, “Did the Hokage tell you to submit your team for the Chunin Exams?” Her red eyes stared at him imploringly.

Kakashi closed his book softly, “Why?”

She stared unblinking, “Curiosity.”

“He made me,” Asuma threw in.

They all turned to him as he took another hit. Kurenai cocked her head and asked quietly, “Why?”

Asuma huffed bitterly, “Public appearances.”

Gai glanced away.

Kakashi looked between all of them, “Why do you care?”

Asuma looked at Gai and Kurenai before turning to him, “I think my father is going to retire soon.”

Kakashi was *not* expecting that. “What?”

“Think of it,” Asuma put out his cigarette, “While Chunin Exams are a big deal they typically aren’t Hokage and Kazekage worthy. Having such a big event like this is a great opportunity to facilitate good relations with our allies while we change leadership roles. Have all of their rookies participated for our allies? This is all just a big dog and pony show! Something to entertain while they quietly deal with the important shit. Like the who and when the Hokage is retiring.”

Kakashi stared at him baffled. The other two were nodding at his words, “You believe the Hokage is going to *retire* ?! With who as his successor?” *His true successor had died long ago, a powerful noble death.*

They all stared at him and a slow smirk came to Asuma’s face. Kakashi scoffed loudly, “It’s not me, who else?”

“It has to be Jiraiya,” Kuernai threw in, “He’s the only student of the Hokage that is still around. He’s capable and well-known and well-liked. It has to be him.”

“Who said it had to be a student of the Hokage?” Asuma grinned, “I bet it’s going to be Shikaku, he’s been around everything and worked with almost everyone. A Nara is guaranteed to impress other Kage’s.”

Kakashi stared blankly ahead, ignoring Gai who was watching him with a keen look. *How has he missed this? Did he really ignore all the signs?* “Did the Hokage have all of you submit for the Exams?” He interrupted the two.

Gai responded quickly, “No! My team were going to be submitted no matter if our glorious Hokage asked it of me! I believe the same with Kurenai!”

“I wasn’t going to submit mine,” Asuma nodded, “They are just barely able to work together. Two of them haven’t even been working on their signature jutsu—they are working on personal projects that won’t be ready for another few months.”

“Ino doesn’t even have any fighting genjutsu yet,” Kuernai mumbled, leaning back.

Asuma snapped his fingers, “Exactly—Chouji can barely hit someone if he likes them. I had him spar with Shikamaru a few days ago. Neither of them took it seriously, nor did they even attempt to.”

Gai nodded solemnly, “Indeed, my boy Lee suffered a similar problem when he first began training. He refused to dignify Tenten with true battle! However, I eventually got him to understand that it is a matter of honour! You dishonour any enemy if you do not take their battle seriously!”

“I don't think that's going to work with Shikamaru,” Asuma huffed, “Might with Chouji. The kid would rather die than disrespect anyone.”

Kakashi watched the three casually speak about their students with a slight air of disbelief. They were fine with sending their three not-battle-ready students into a death game? No care for what might happen or if they die? He calmed himself mutely, *if they are so relaxed perhaps there is no reason to panic. They might know something he doesn't know.*

“—Especially with Ibiki working on the first test. I know my team will be fine. Two of three scored highest in the academy and the other two of the three are calm and rarely goated into anything.”

“Lucky,” Kuernai’s voice was playful, “Mine’s only one of three.”

“Mine is none!” Gai proclaimed, “They are all led by the heart, however, we have been prepping for many months now. I have full hope for them.”

The two laughed and Kakashi decided to cut in, “Has the second part started?”

They looked at him and Asuma nodded, “Ibiki is done—Anko is holding the simulation part. Should last a few days. Maybe a week or two.”

“Are you sure that your father is retiring?” He continued.

Asuma narrowed his eyes, “Mostly positive. He's too old these days—he needs to start prepping someone for this position.”

“Being too old has never been a problem for shinobi,” Kakashi stated.

“Illness has,” Asuma rubbed his beard.

Kuernai looked alarmed, “The Hokage is sick?”

Asuma shrugged, “I think so. He's tired, that's for sure.”

A moment of silence passed. The room that was filled with other jounin, was now emptying. Many left to go gather the teams that failed. He and the other three lounged on the couches that sat in the middle of the room. It was a large space meant for ninjas just coming back from missions, now used for jounin waiting for their teams.

Finally, Kuernai asked him, “What about your team?”

Kakashi glanced at the genjutsu mistress, “What?”

“Would you have submitted them even if the Hokage hadn't told you to?” She stared at him with her red eyes.

Instantly, he knew his answer, “No.”

Gai was nodding slowly but Asuma looked curious, “Why?”

"I believe they could be battle ready," He nodded his silver head, "However, I would not pass them."

"Even the civilian born?" Asuma asked, his brown eyes watching him curiously as he lounged on the couch.

"Well," He said playfully, "Maybe...I would pass her between the three."

"Not the Uchiha or...Uzumaki?" Asuma asked, hesitating on Naruto's title.

Kakashi scratched at his mask, "No. They are emotionally compromised. I wouldn't pass either."

Kuernai was seemingly nodding along, "I agree, I truly believe my kids will pass. But it all comes down to if they will emotionally be ready."

Gai, surprisingly, agreed, "Yes, I find that it is harder when they are younger. Of mine, only Tenten is responsible and emotionally ready for the position of chunin."

Asuma looked between them amused, "Am I the only one with an emotionally ready genin team?"

"Even you Gai?" Kakashi looked at him from beneath his lashes.

Gai looked sombre, "Neji is a capable prodigy, extremely strong and prideful. But his ego and ideals will ruin him and Lee...My precious student is desperate to prove himself, even at the cost of altering a mission. He would need to put it aside if he wants to become chunin."

Kakashi wondered about telling them about the promise of the Hokage. About how he is allowed to pull his students at the cost of theirs. As long as their students are looking good he can keep his kids safe. But he said nothing, and he didn't change his mind about telling them.

Not for his kids.

"Did you see any other kids that looked good?" Asuma stood and made his way to the bar.

"The sand genin," Kakashi replied.

Kuernai smiled lightly, "I was going to say those '*Sound - nin* .'"

Asuma poured himself a cup, "The sand-nin are the Kazekage's kids, hmm? Let's hope they don't disappoint." Kakashi detected slight bitterness.

"I was more talking about the One-Tails," Kakashi said causally.

The three turned to him shocked. Asuma sat back down and took a sip of his drink, "The redhead?"

Kakashi eye-smiled.

Asuma sighed and sat his drink down, “Thought so, when I met them he seemed a little...”

“Feared?” Kakashi asked.

“I was going to say odd,” Asuma laughed.

“Wait, wait, wait,” Kuernai waved her hand, “The One-Tails and the...Nine-Tails are both participating along with many heirs and important kids?”

Asuma looked at her, “Don't worry, this is typical of politics. Even if it is full of red flags.”

Kuernai leaned back in disbelief, “That is...irresponsible!”

Gai pat her knee, “No worries! We are very capable shinobi, we can deal if some problems occur.”

She raised her brow at him and quirked a smile, “Sure. Like a jinchuriki brawl for the Kages.”

“Or the seals breaking,” Kakashi mumbled harshly.

Gai heard him and gave him a blinding smile, “You should not worry, my Youthful Rival, the Fourth made sure such a thing will never happen!”

Kakashi felt a pain in his chest from the mention of his old Sensei title that he easily ignored. He waved his hand, “I wouldn't worry too much, the Kyuubi hasn't made any appearances.”

“Great!” Gai cheered, “Then we should have no fear.”

“It might with being around another Tailed beast,” Asuma quietly says.

Gai waved his broad hands and stood, “I wouldn't fear, my fellow jounin. These are the Chunin Exams! The most secure of our events. Everyone involved are capable shinobi. I have no worries with the Hokage watching over us.”

“Unless he is retiring,” Asuma gossiped to Kuernai who laughed.

Kakashi stood groaning. Waiting to be called by chunin to collect his teams is *exhausting*. Sitting around and talking about their teams and Kage's and if something horrible might happen while laughing. His hands felt almost shaky with the desire to ask for a mission or to spar. He turned to Gai.

“Gai,” He called.

He glanced at him and smiled broadly, “Yes, my Eternal Rival?”

“You want to do something?” Kakashi asked, his teeth barred under his mask.

Gai's eyes sparkled, “A challenge?! Gladly, Kakashi!”

Kakashi slouched back and distracted himself from his kids.

Chapter End Notes

so next chap is probably going to be the exams, not techno stuff. sadge
don't worry we will get more SBI stuff and explanations

also, yes, I'm establishing more lore and Tsunade being here.

Sakura Seventeen

Chapter Notes

behold,

my stuff!

*a new chapter that took way too long!

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Sakura squinted looking up at the trees.

“Why do they...” Naruto started, “Why are they so *big*?”

Sasuke let out a long sigh.

Sakura licked her lips, “They were grown personally by the First Hokage. He grew most of the plants near us but these were the most dangerous and large. It was given the nickname: Forest of Death.”

“That's right!” Someone yelled loudly next to them. They all jumped and turned to them.

Their proctor, Anko Mitarashi, stood proudly. She was grinning at them with a savage glint in her eye, “This is *technically* a training ground, but you have to specifically request it because of the high rate of mortality. However! This is the Chunin Exam! You are all gladly giving yourself up to danger, for the sake of proving yourselves.”

All the other genin were listening in waiting for instructions on why she dragged them all the way out to one of the most dangerous spots in Fire Country.

She got very close to Naruto and Sakura tensed, “Of course, you would have to *survive* to the very end to even come close to becoming a chunin. I doubt barely any of you will even get close!” She pulled away and made her way to the front next to other officials.

Sakura blinked at the baffled seeming Naruto. Sasuke sighed even louder and looked around anxiously. She noted what he watched, the Sand-nin, their allies, and Kiba's team. Some of the older team were stared at with strong intentions but none as strongly as the red-haired boy, Gaara.

She also had her own opponents to look out for, the Sand-nin were certainly up there but she didn't underestimate the rest of the genin. She knew their allies would be very capable if they train with her brother. Kiba's team would be strong, and she knew to never forget Ino's team. They were some of the smart ones, Shikamaru and Ino were clever. Something people tended to forget.

Perhaps most interesting were the Sand and Sound-nin. She knew barely any of the Sand's type of strategies or fighting styles. The Sound...she didn't know anything about them. She hadn't even heard of them before, but they had looked dangerous and were oozing bloodthirst from across the room.

Naruto looked around exasperated, "When are we going to start?"

"Not till midday," A cool, lean voice said. The boy with silver hair and glasses was standing next to them.

She narrowed her eyes at him, "How'd you hear that?"

He smiled charmingly at her, "You learn lots of things from being a participant so many times."

She felt like snarling at him but instead smiled tightly, "Interesting." She searched around and spotted Shikamaru and Ino. She reached over and grabbed Sasuke and Naruto, "Oh! Look, our friends! Let's go say hi!"

She dragged the two towards her friends, ignoring the hard stare on her back.

Shikamaru and Ino were talking to each other. Chouji was not next to his friends and team. The two were clearly planning something and not wanting others' attention.

She stopped in front of them and yanked her teammates to stand next to her. She greeted them with smiles, "Glad to see you guys pass!"

They turned to her blinking. Ino recovered quickly and threw her hair over her shoulder, "Of course we did. I never had any doubts!"

Shikamaru was watching them with keen eyes, "Can't believe you all passed. Guessing you figured out the cheating part?"

Naruto went red, "Wh-What does that mean?! You think we aren't smart enough to do it on our own?!"

Shikamaru snorted, "So you didn't figure it out, hm? And only one of you is smart enough to answer it without cheating." He glanced at her.

Naruto deflated under Shikamaru's, seemingly, correct assumption and she felt herself flush at the compliment.

"Where is your third teammate?" Sasuke cut in.

Ino instantly turned her attention to him, "Chouji? Oh, he's talking to a teacher of his. Apparently, she's here right now."

"His medic teacher?" Sakura asked, looking around for him.

"Yep!" Ino popped, "Too bad my genjutsu teacher isn't here. She would wow all of you."

Sasuke shifted his stance, "You're learning genjutsu?"

Ino looked surprised Sasuke was speaking to her, "Yeah, it will work well with my mind jutsus. It should give me a bigger arsenal to avoid and disarm. You're looking at Konoha's next best genjutsu mistress!" She declared loudly, gathering other people's attention.

Naruto, however, applauded her, "Yeah! You can do it, we can become chunin and prove ourselves as the best and I can become Hokage!" He high-fived the baffled and frozen Ino.

Shikamaru coughed a laugh and turned towards the front, "Chouji is coming back."

They all turned to see the brown-haired boy jogging over with a smile on his friendly face, "Oh! Hey guys!"

Sakura grinned at him, "Hi Chouji!"

Naruto greeted him the same while Sasuke stood dramatically next to her not speaking.

Shikamaru draped his tall, lanky self over his friend with a loud sigh, "Did you get all the information?" He asked drowsily.

Sasuke sharply turned back in.

Chouji nodded, "We're going to be given something to protect and something to collect from other genin. It's going to last a few days and we will have to find our way to the middle where the last part will take place."

They all gaped at him while Shikamaru only nodded, "Thought so. I wonder if it will be more specific targets or an all-out brawl."

Naruto stuttered, "W-wait! How do you know that?"

Chouji pointed to where he came from, "My teacher is—"

"The best poison expert in the world!" Their proctor appeared next to them and they all jerked back (besides Chouji and Shikamaru). She leaned over Chouji with a wide smile, "I see you are using the information I gave you wisely."

Chouji nodded surely, "Of course, Anko-sensei. I trust everyone here greatly."

Both Sasuke and Naruto looked confused at his words but she felt warmth in her chest at Chouji's kindness.

Then she blinked, "This is the medic-nin you are with?"

He nodded, "Yep! Her speciality is poison though. She knows medical jutsu though."

"Obviously I know medical jutsu!" She exclaimed, "It would be ridiculously dangerous to practice poisons and herbs without being able to heal whoever I'm testing them on." She winked at them.

Ino nodded agreeably, "My dad says something similar about mind jutsu."

Anko-sama snapped her fingers at her, "Your dad knows what he's talking about. Getting hit by a mind jutsu can truly be *excruciating*."

They stared at her in obvious fear.

She seemed to bask in it and nod to them, "Well, I gotta go announce the task for this test! Stay safe, you *are* my favourite student. Don't die by something stupid." She called to them as she walked away.

Sasuke zoned in on Chouji, "What other information did she give you?"

Chouji shrugged, "Everything I already said." He glanced away for a moment and she knew he was lying.

Sasuke knew it too and he narrowed his eyes at him, "What else do you—"

Ino stepped in front of them with a mean smile, "Sorry, Sasuke-kun! We have to discuss stuff together as a team. Maybe you and yours should do the same!" Her voice was high and mocking compared to her sharp and sarcastic tones.

Sasuke stepped back looking confused as Ino pulled her two away from them.

Sakura sighed and turned to Naruto, "Who are you looking for?"

He looked at her, "Our allies." He said loudly.

Sasuke glanced at them, "Why?"

"To tell them what we've learned," He nodded assuredly.

"Oh," Sakura realized, "Yeah, we need to warn them." She looked to Sasuke, "Have you seen them?"

Sasuke grimaced but pointed off, "I saw the green one hanging around over there."

She rolled her eyes, "His name is Lee."

"Whatever," He mumbled back.

They made their way past the crowded area. The open space was nice but standing in front of the forest and waiting for their fate was no doubt meant to intimidate and worry them. They were at the spot Sasuke saw Lee when Anko-sama called out from the front.

"Hey! Before we get started you all will have to sign this!" She held up a stack of papers, "A standard consent form, you all have to read it and sign it. Or else no entry and you fail the test."

"What's it for?" Someone yelled.

She smirked, "It's for those who might not come out alive and I need your permission to consent to the risk." She started laughing, "Or else it might be my responsibility."

A long tense pause filled the air.

She huffed, "Here! Pass these out," And turned back to her other officials.

"We have a few to plan," Sasuke said, "We should look through the papers to see if there are any hints as to what's in the forest."

"Should mostly be bugs," Someone said next to them.

They turned to see Tenten standing there with her team.

Sakura relaxed, "We were looking for you."

"Oh? Same," Tenten nodded.

Naruto perked up, "Yeah! We learned about—Mmph!" She covered his mouth quickly.

"We need to talk in a more private area," Sasuke said, looking around.

"We need the forms," Lee stared ahead, "I will get some for all of us!" Then he ran into the thick crowd.

"Ignore him," Tenten said, "He'll find us—Neji, do you see a good spot?"

He pointed towards a rock, "No one is over there."

"Let's go," Naruto enthused behind her hand.

They skittered over towards it and ducked behind it. Finally, she let go of Naruto and wiped her hand on his shirt, and he opened his mouth and sped through the new information.

Tenten and Neji looked thoughtful. Sasuke was watching them and Naruto was keeping an eye out for Lee and others who are trying to listen in.

Tenten spoke up, "If we are going to be protecting something and collecting from others, will we be kicked out if we lose ours?"

"Possibly," Neji responded.

"But if we are spending days in there...why couldn't we get it back and someone else's?" She theorised.

"It might be against the rules?" Naruto shrugged.

"No," Sasuke scoffed, "Our first test was encouraging us to cheat. This will not punish us for trying to win."

Lee suddenly flew around the corner holding multiple sheets of paper and a few pencils. He grinned largely at them, "I have the consent forms!"

He passed them all out quickly. They slowly read through them and paused at certain points.

"...giant eating snake?"

"Thrown from great heights?"

"Killed in combat?!"

They signed.

Sakura paused before telling them, "Shikamaru, Chouji and Ino have some plans. So I would avoid them."

They all at glanced at each other and Tenten tentatively asked, "The uh, people you were talking to?"

She felt like face palming, "Yep," Her voice cracked, "Those three."

They nodded and loud yelling interrupted them. They all looked out to see Anko holding up a paper and yelling about the rules. They quickly exited their hiding spot and back into the crowd, away from each other.

"—If everyone is listening!" She yelled at the talking crowd who quieted down, "Great," She grinned, "This will be a survival test. First I will be talking about the terrain you will be entering into for the duration of this exam."

Naruto suddenly nudged her shoulder and she turned to him, "What?"

He whispered, "Why didn't we tell Hinata and her team about the scrolls early?"

She furrowed her brow, "They aren't our allies."

"But we all know besides them," He said back.

"Idiot," Sasuke hissed, "They probably already knew."

"How?" He said loudly and multiple people shushed him.

Sakura answered before him, "They have a Hyuga and Aburame. Their speciality *is* collecting information."

He looked away seeming upset.

She focused back on the speech.

"—each of you will be attempting to get there." She held up two scrolls, "The heaven and earth scroll, you will need both to beat the test. However, everyone here will only get one of

each. The twenty-six teams will be split randomly, if you have the earth scroll you need the heaven and vice versa. Get them to the tower at the centre of the forest and you have passed.”

She shifted as the crowd murmured to each other.

“And yes,” She said with a nasty grin, “That means at maximum only half of you will be passed. This will last for five days. On the last day, if you don't have the scroll *and* aren't at the building. You fail.”

Her audience gasped and she herself felt nervous. *five days?! Three without water could have you killed! We will have to finish this fast.*

Suddenly Shikamaru raised his hand from off to the side. Anko pointed at him and he asked, “Can you quit in the middle of the exam?”

She scoffed at him, “Of course not! You can't apologise and then quit in the middle of a battle! Or...I guess you could, but it would probably just get you killed.”

He rolled his eyes and Anko called back attention.

“There are some disqualifications. Such as you have to complete with all of your teammates. Can't leave one behind or work on your own. And the other is the scrolls. You are *not* allowed to open them by any means. Not until you've reached the tower in the middle.”

Naruto, without warning, asked, “W-Well, what happens if it suddenly flaps open and we accidentally read it?”

She snorts, “Same ending. Don't read it if you want to become genin, got it?”

He nodded hastily.

“Good! Now everyone who signed your consent forms hand them into the stand in the front to trade them in for your scrolls.” She pointed to a stall with two people.

People quickly got in line. Sakura was close to the front and she hoped to see if she could spy who got what. But the other proctors pulled a thick red sheet around the stand and began inviting teams one at a time into the shaded shack.

They moved quickly and she was up. She ducked into it and held out her form along with Naruto and Sasuke (*Who let her wait in line until she was next*) .

They held out a scroll and Sasuke tucked it into his shirt quickly and they all shuffled out. They didn't dare look at the scroll for fear someone would listen and target them.

Finally, all the genin had their scrolls and Anko bellowed, “Now find your way to the different entrances around the forest!”

They made their way past multiple stops before finding an empty one maned by a singlet chunin. He nodded to them and told them where to stand and when they will move and be let in.

She glanced at the two of them from the corner of her eye, “We will have to be fast. We aren't trained to last multiple days on our own without a jounin.”

Naruto nodded and Sasuke agreed, “We will have to, if we get there late we won't have much time to rest based on how they did the first part of the test.”

She breathed in deeply, “We can't die or get hurt.”

Sasuke and Naruto exhaled.

“We will...all fail,” She said hesitantly.

They said nothing.

“I don't...want us to fail,” Her voice broke.

A hand grabbed her shoulder and Naruto's voice was warm, “Don't worry. We will all be okay.”

She nodded and swallowed back any fear, “Of course.”

“And Sakura,” Sasuke said, “We will win.”

She clenched her jaw, “Let's beat them all.”

The buzzer sounded and they ran into the forest.

Chapter End Notes

I'm too tired to say anything.
Next is techno :)

Technoblade Fifteen

Chapter Notes

uhhh warning for sad?
this chap ended up being a big fuckin bummer...
but here is Techno's chap! He might vanish for a few along with Ghostbur and Shisui!
don't worry, they will all be back.

OH sorry to anyone who commented and got their comment deleted...the uh mark read and delete button are very close to each other on phone.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Technoblade does not *cling* .

He was a deadly warrior formed from a bloody battle. A gruesome fighter who slaughtered and decimated anyone and anything. He was the Blood God, he praised him for all he allowed him to do. He held the voices of thousands of the dead. He worked with Dream and his allies. He overturned government and corrupt leadership.

He did not cling.

Ghostbur kept his arm around his shoulders while he jabbered to Shisui. Techno had dozed and woken up multiple times as he leaned on Ghostbur. Time didn't seem to be passing; only snow continued to fall and build up. Nothing changed and no one appeared.

Techno could feel this pseudo-illness the longer he stayed here. He knew it wasn't real (~~For now~~) but his body reacted like it was real. He didn't know what being here would do to him (~~But he didn't want to leave~~).

He shivered and huddled closer to his grey brother who hummed concerned, “How are you feeling Techno?”

“Fine,” His voice was scratchy.

“He's not fine!” Shisui declared, hands on his hips, “He needs to go back. He could be dying—we don't know what's happening in real life.”

“We can't just send him back,” Ghostbur murmured, running his hands through his pink hair, “He has to send himself back or be pulled out by someone else. We can't do anything.”

Techno's eyes closed again. But he was shaking and he glared up at Shisui who looked frustrated.

Techno narrowed his eyes, "I know you can't see me, but I am glaring at you."

Shisui waved him off, "Cool—now *leave*."

Techno shuffled closer to Ghostbur, "No, I will be fine. It's not real, I heal fast enough to be fine. Nothing will happen." He knew it was a lie, this was unnatural and his body is already extremely vulnerable.

"You don't know that!" Shisui snapped at him. He started pacing around the area, "You need to go back and warn my cousin. Or warn Kakashi. Or anyone! You can't die here!"

Techno coughed, "Why? What do you need from me?"

Ghostbur held a hand up to his forehead, "Just ignore him, he's worried about his family—I have some blue!" He pulled out a blob and tucked it into Techno's arm and watched it turn blue.

"Of course, I'm worried about my family!" He sounded extremely frustrated, "They could all be dead after this! He *needs* to help them!"

Techno scoffed, "I see why you were so nice to me, happy to know some things never change."

Ghostbur sounded wounded, "That's not true! He just was hoping you would help him! Like friends!" The blue sheep baa'd and immediately turned his attention to him.

"Yes," If he could Shisui would have rolled his eyes, "I do need something from you. But I just want you to make sure my family is *okay*."

Techno thought of the clearly traumatised Sasuke Uchiha and the story of Itachi Uchiha's betrayal and genocide, "Sure," He snorted, "They're doing great. Flawless, they will do a great job carrying on the bloodline when they inevitably kill each other."

"That's why I need someone to keep an eye on them," He stretched out his words.

"Why would I do that?" He coughed again and shivered, "I owe you nothing. You can't give me anything and your family—"

"Wrong," He suddenly said, "I was going to do something for you. To do it for me."

Techno leaned closer to his past brother, "What would you give?"

"Information," Shisui leaned over him, "You want to know how you got here and if anyone else is here, right?"

Techno pulled away from Ghostbur and looked him straight on, "What do you know?"

"Right now, just enough," He said coolly, "But I can learn more. Especially if I can get info off your friend here, then I can tell you."

“What do you know *now* ?” He attempted to stand only to collapse.

He grabbed him and sat him back down next to the worried Ghostbur, “You have to first promise me you will look over my cousins.”

Techno felt icy cold, “ *Both* ? You only have one near me and I’m not about to abandon my family to find the one who slaughtered all of yours.”

“It's not negotiable,” He shook his dark head, “They both need to live long enough for the confrontation to happen. I need you to keep them alive and for our plans to continue.”

Techno clenched his fist, “*Your plans*? What are you planning to do?! Or were you just hoping I would be a puppet and help you?”

Shishui turned away from them and crossed his arms, “The plans are why I am dead, and if they don't go *as* planned then I will have died for nothing. My family will have died for nothing. Sasuke and Itachi will have suffered for nothing! You are my only chance at fixing it.”

Techno faltered and looked at his dead brother; Ghostbur smiled warmly at him, “Don't look so down, Techno! Have some blue.” He softly put it into his hand and quietly said, “I don't want to see you sad.”

Techno suddenly shook his head and clutched the blue close, “No, I'm going to uh...stay here for a little longer.” He sunk into the comfort of his brother. A piece that made up the beloved (And crazy) whole.

Shisui seemed to growl, “You. Cant. You know that! We don't know what will happen if you stay here too long! We don't even know how much time has passed! It could have been weeks already!”

Techno pushed down any panic, “I have people who will look for me if it's been that long.”

“But we don't know anything! You could be *dying right now*!” Shisui cracked, “You are too important to die here!”

Ghosbur ran his long fingers through his hair, “I don't want you to die and get stuck here either.”

Techno swallowed back any emotions and shrugged casually, “I won't, I just want to...stay here a little longer.”

Shisui scoffed and walked away, running his hands through his hair. Ghostbur looked down at him with big warm eyes, “I think you're great! But I don't want you to be stuck here.”

Techno looked up at his brother, “That won't happen, I just want to be here with you a little longer.”

Ghostbur’s grey face seemed to darken, “We both know that's not true.”

Techno shook his head stubbornly, “Everything will be fine. I just won't be here wit-with you for a little—”

“Techno,” His voice was kind but firm, “You can't stay here with me. I can barely stay here, this is not a place you can stay unless you are supposed to be here.”

“You aren't supposed to be here?” He asked, coughing.

He shook his head and said solemnly, “I'm still waiting at the train station.”

Techno felt pain in his chest, “And...where is Wilbur?” The name felt almost unnatural on his tongue.

His eyes blurred over, “Still alive.”

Techno hated the relief that came into his body. Ghostbur and *‘Alivebur’* were two separate pieces of one person, Wilbur Soot. They represented the versions of him, the good and the bad. Ghostbur was warm and loved music and his family. He did not care for power or money, he loved his animals and wishes to see his son prosper. But Alivebur...

Being bad was not the word he would use to describe that version of his ~~dead~~ brother; he preferred dangerous.

Alivebur was closer to what Wilbur was before he...passed. Angry and delusional, power-hungry and manipulative to the highest degree. He is Ghotsbur's inverse, he didn't care for family or friends. He disregarded his son and brother's emotions. He was a chess player at heart and now everyone was pawns.

Techno knew everyone preferred Ghostbur compared to Alivebur, he was kinder and friendly with no interest in power, but they were only parts of one deeply flawed person. Wilbur didn't deserve to be a puppet for people to laugh at, he deserved to be a whole person. Even in death.

Techno, struggling, pushed himself up, “Did Dream never reunite the two of you?”

“No,” His voice was wispy and high compared to Wilbur's deep baritone, “I never was reunited and the train...it brought a few people in. But not Alivebur or Dream.”

“Was...I brought in?” His voice cracked slightly.

He shook his curly brown hair, “No, I thought I saw you riding it once, but I guess you had a different stop.”

Techno inhaled sharply, “Who...who else was brought in?”

“Ooh, that's a good question,” He heard him giggle to himself, “Uh, I think, Bad showed up with Skeppy. Uh...oh! Ranboo came in with a kid! They were really nice, but they needed a lot of blue...”

Techno felt a sharp pain in his chest and tears stung his eyes, “Anyone else?”

“George came in with a friend, Karl? And of course, Schlatt is always there, but he says he's just waiting for the main train to come in.”

‘The main train?’ He asked numbly.

“Yeah!” He laughed, “Schlatt thinks that once we all get there the ‘main train’ will come in to take us all at once.”

Techno stared into the void, “Then what's here?”

“I don't really know,” He looked around, “I just started walking in a direction and came here. I think it's just where...the uneasy come to stay around. For everyone, not just here or there.”

“Limbo,” Techno mumbled tiredly.

‘Yeah!’ He cheered, “Which means that when the ‘main train’ come in, we will all be moving on—”

Techno lay feeling blank, “Then why am I not here?”

Ghostbur smiled widely at him, “Maybe, the universe wants you for something else!”

He thinks of Dream and Phil who were just as important or powerful and how apparently Dream never showed up but everyone else has been. He wonders where they are being taken.

“I miss you,” Fell out of his mouth and it felt hard to breathe.

Ghotsbur’s hand came to his face, “I do too, and so does everyone else.”

He gasped, “Hopefully I will see all of you soon.”

Ghostbur shook his head, “No, I don't want to see you soon. You should stay away as long as possible. Hopefully, I can talk to you from here! But I don't want to see you at the train station for a long time.”

A tear came out of his red eyes, “That's not fair, I miss you and P-Phil and Tommy and Ranboo and even Dream and his stupid outfits...”

Ghostbur handed him more blue, “But won’t you miss this family?”

The thought of Sakura and their parents hurt, as did thinking of Kakashi and Gai-sensei and their little teams, “That's not fair.” He mumbled.

The snow fell faster as his eyes fluttered.

“It's not,” He hummed, “But you have to.”

The fake illness was pulling him back into slumber, so before he could he told Ghostbur, “Take me back,” He slurred, “I need to go back.”

He felt himself being pulled before he fell into sleep.

Chapter End Notes

Exposition. My favourite subject, enjoy the dead talk.

it's hard to combine the Naruto afterlife and DSMP afterlife. Sorry if anyone doesn't know DSMP and their afterlife or what happened to Wilbur. Just know he died and split into two versions of himself.

Intermission: Forest of Death

Chapter Notes

now this is a chapter!

Hint for anyone, if you feel as if you don't want to write. You might just not want to write for a certain character.

I hope you like three different POVs in one.

sorry for not posting I did hit a little bit of writer's block. but thankfully I worked around it.

this is also one of the only intermission chaps

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Ino crouched down next to her other teammates as they hid in the trees. She peeked over the edges and allowed her senses to search for chakra, but nothing. She turned to Shikamaru, “I don't sense anyone.”

He nodded, “Good—we need to get closer to the centre to enact my plan.”

Chouji pulled out a bag of chips and they both winced. She raised her at him, “What's the rest of the plan? You only really talked about getting the item and survival strategies. How are we going to get someone's Heaven Scroll?”

Shikamaru held up a finger, “Well I started with the fact that we have one bigger obstacle than any other team.”

She furrowed her brow, “What is it?”

He pointed at Chouji, “We have an Akimichi on our team.”

Chouji paused in his eating and seemed slightly hurt, “What do you mean?”

Shikamaru sighed, “Don't take it personally. What I mean is that we have somebody who needs to eat constantly to be up to speed; meaning we now have a time limit to how long we can be out here without food.”

It clicked in her mind, “We have to be out of here as soon as possible because we can't hunt that much food. Not without drawing attention or losing our focus.”

He nodded, “Exactly.”

Chouji sheepishly put his chips away, “Sorry guys.”

Shikamaru waved his words away, “Don't worry about it, it's your jutsu. Not your fault, it also forces me to plan faster and work harder, which Ino clearly thinks is better for us.”

She raised her chin, “Of course I do! You're a Nara! Our plan guy! We need you on your best if we don't want to *die...painfully* .”

He rolled his eyes, “What a drag.”

She mocked him under her breath, “ *‘Oh how terrible, I'm the most important person on our team! Poor me for knowing what I'm doing!’* ”

He shifted his stance and cocked his head, “Do you want me to tell you the plan or not?”

She sighed heavily and tossed her long blonde hair, “Fine, if you have to.”

He glanced around the dark green eerie forest they were stuck in. It was heavy with cold air and overwhelming silence. He came back to his team, “We are going to find and trap someone and force them to hand over their scroll using your mind jutsu.”

She thought about, “Alright, what else?”

He continued, “My jutsu is a good distraction. Especially if nobody knows that I'm using it. That's when you will hit them with your jutsu. A subtle one, don't let them feel pain or even know you are giving us their scroll.”

She scoffed, “One problem, who will I be hitting? I can't do more than one like my dad.”
“Oh!” Chouji exclaimed, “That's where I come in?”

Shikamaru nodded his sharp chin, “Exactly, you are the distraction and bait. You will leave behind a trail they can follow and we can tail them. Me and you, Ino, will be keeping an eye on where their scroll is. Once we know we will hit them. This will be a stealth mission and, thanks to Ren, we should be able to hide ourselves well. Everybody got it?”

They both nodded and he said, “Now we will have to do this fast, and the most likely spot everyone will go is towards the centre. Hopefully, we will encounter someone there.”

Ino suddenly froze and looked around. Here chakra sensing has increased in sensitivity since beginning work with genjutsu and she just felt someone run towards them. She grabbed Shikamaru and Chouji, “Hide!” She hissed.

They dove behind the nearby leaves and brought their chakra down as far as possible. None of them moved as a genin team stopped right in front of them. She narrowed her eyes and looked between them. In their team Shikamaru held the scroll, not just because his jutsu keeps him out of most fights, but also because of his ideas and quick thinking in battle. Shikamaru assumed two things; people would keep it on their weakest or strongest character. He told them teams like Kiba's and maybe Sakura would be held by the strongest members. Teams like theirs would have one of the weaker members hold it.

She scanned through them. Each member looked confident but noted one on the end looking slightly more frantic than the others. None looked particularly strong but one certainly looked

nervous. She turned her head to Shika and nodded. He blinked and mouthed, 'Now?' She nodded again and he finally turned to Chouji.

Chouji snuck around the trees until he was on the opposite side to them then dropped one of his chips off the edge. The team all turned to the slight noise. Chouji began leading them off using pieces of his food. She and Shikamaru followed close behind. Chouji led them all the way into a clearing. He seemed to be standing right in the middle holding his chips and munching on them.

His clone gasped at the sight of the three genin. They quickly began heckling him about where the rest of his team was, to which he responded by saying they left him while they scouted ahead. Meanwhile, the real Chouji came back over to them.

'He will be the easiest to get information from,' She thought to herself. She turned to Shikamaru and gave him a thumbs up. He squinted but gave his approval. He put his hands together and cast his shadow possession jutsu on them.

They all froze and panicked looks came on their faces as clone Chouji stood there still clutching his chips.

She quickly cast her transfer jutsu to the nervous one.

The intrusion of her jutsu worked one of two ways, instant and painful takeover or slow and unseeing. She could also get a brief glimpse into what they are thinking if they didn't know she was there.

Her mind slowly slipped into his and her body limply fell over. She immediately got small words into her mind.

...does he have it?

Is his team around?

I really hope they don't know...

She silently prodded at the information again.

Does he still have the scroll?

Why can't we move/?!?

Do they know....Haru has the scroll?

She pulled away and woke back up in her body to find Chouji holding her up. She put her hands together and blasted into the one called Haru.

It was a painful takeover and she blinked at her surroundings. Now she was standing trapped in Shikamaru's jutsu. She didn't move as the clone of Chouji vanished and the other genin started fighting in earnest. She waited for Shikamaru to move them.

They all turned around as Shika moved. None of them could see each other or interact. Suddenly the jutsu stopped on her and she quickly began rummaging through her body. She dug through their bag and winced as they attempted to break out of the mind jutsu. She paused and pulled open the jacket they had on and grasped a scroll. She pulled it out with a grin.

She quickly turned and threw it hard at her team and disengaged her jutsu and returned back to her body.

She blinked drowsily as she came back. Ino shifted and her eyes sprung open. She was being carried as they ran. She called attention to herself as Chouji carried her, “Hey!”

They stopped and she sat down. Shikamaru stood on her left and Chouji on her right. She looked up at them, “Did you get it?”

Shikamaru sighed and pulled it out, “It's also a Heaven Scroll.” He held it out and she snatched it from him angrily. She looked it over and scowled at the words, “Well that's just great, all that work and now we have another useless scroll!”

Shikamaru shook his head, “It's not too bad—we might be able to trade it for another team if they have two Earth Scrolls.”

She rolled her eyes, “What's the chance of that happening?”

He shrugged, “If we run into Sakura or Kiba we can ask them, other than that...” He shrugged again.

She shook her head, “This sucks! Do you know how much jutsu I waste using mind transfer?! I doubt I could cast it again half as long!”

Chouji looked between them, “Will we have to do it again?”

Shikamaru kicked at the tree they stood on, “More than likely, but the chances of us running into a stronger team go up as time passes. We had a perfect opportunity and...they had the wrong scroll.” He sounded deeply frustrated and she pushed away any pity for his annoyance.

She stood and dusted herself off with a sniff, “Whatever—we need to find food and shelter. Especially for Mr-I-need-to-eat-five-times-my-body-weight, here.”

Chouji looked away slightly, “We should find a pond or river.”

“We have to be careful with rivers,” Shika immediately said, “Lots of people will camp on the shores and many will follow the river to find other contestants.”

They all nodded and Ino sighed. She knew Shika was just as tired if not more than her. Shadow's jutsu was chakra exhausting, and he used it for quite awhile while she jumped between bodies. Now he was frustrated because the plan he thought of didn't work as perfectly as it should have.

She sighed heavily and fiddled with her hair, “We should find—” Her body tensed up suddenly and her eyes searched for the cause. It was like the air was zapped with electricity

and fear. The green and black trees were hazy and her smell was sharp with the tang of blood.

Shikamaru stared at her looking confused, “What happened?”

She stuttered on her words, “So-Someone...someone... there is someone...nearby.”

Shika and Chouji jumped into action looking around and searching but she knew they wouldn't find anything.

“Not here,” She gasped out.

They came back to her and Shika put his hands on her shoulder, “What do you sense?” His tone was serious with none of the lazy undertone she was used to.

She focused on something off in the distance, “There is...this presence. A dark looming, bloodthirsty person. It's dark with thick amounts of chakra.” She squinted and her nostrils burned, “It smells *horrible* .”

Chouji pulled through his medical items and held them under her nose. It burned sharply and then the smell was gone.

Shikamaru gazed at where she was looking, “Strange...Kiba said the same thing earlier.”

Chouji nodded, “Yeah, he said it smelt like rotting snakes.”

She felt nauseous with the feeling, “Yeah—I can't imagine what's projecting that much chakra and bloodthirstiness here.”

“It has to be a genin,” Chouji said, sitting down and pulling out food, “We are the only thing ___”

“No,” Shika shook his head, “No, genin feels like that. It has to be a jounin or...something worse.” He turned away, “We need to start moving towards the middle.”

A horrible feeling was crawling up her stomach, “What if...what if it's after someone?”

They both turned as unease returned to her. She swallowed heavily.

Shikamaru only shook his head, “Let's keep moving.”

A loud piercing scream rang through the forest and they widened their eyes. Ino was moving before she knew it, yelling back at her team, “That was Sakura!”

—

Hinata and Shino paused in their search. Kiba faltered and turned behind him, “What is it?”

Shino held out his arms when a bug crawled out, “They are heading our way.”

Hinata's eyes widened, "N-Now?!"

Shino only nodded, "They haven't noticed that we stopped."

Kiba grinned widely, "Sounds perfect, eh Akamaru?" His dog barked atop his head.

Hinata pointed towards a small bush, "B-Behind that is an o-open space that would work."

Kiba quickly jumped into the apparent clearing with a smirk, "Good job, Hinata, this should work perfectly."

They set up quickly. Putting the rope and pulley system together. They attached the ninja wire around and hid it with thin leaves. Kiba stepped away with a laugh, "Oh yeah, let's see them get past this."

"Gr-great job," Hinata agreed softly, "We hopefully can le-leave after this."

Shino said, "If what you said is correct—they have the scroll we need and...the cockiness to lose it."

They gathered in the middle of the clearing, where only people searching would find them. Hinata stood to his right and Shino in front of them and they waited as their targets crept closer.

Kiba grinned and cleared his voice and spoke loudly, "So the tower is where everyone is going to, right?"

He could see Hinata blush at his loudness and Shino almost sigh in exasperation.

He continued, "So, we should make our way there and lay a trap for everyone and steal the scrolls off anyone we catch." He paused as Akamaru dramatically smelled the air, "I think we have company."

Shino in an almost monotone voice said, "Oh, where are they?"

Hinata looked like she might start giggling. Kiba winked at her as they continued to wait for the traps to trigger.

"Oh, I don't know! Maybe they—"

Shino held up his hand, paused in his theatrics, and finally said, "It's done."

They all stood in silence and he strained his keen ears for noises of them getting trapped. He heard quiet whisperings then panicked whisperings, and then he heard them scream as leeches attacked them and they fell from their spaces in the trees. He cracked his neck and gestured to Shino, "Do you want to do the honours?"

He said nothing and Kiba rolled his eyes, "Fine—be a buzzkill. I'll do it."

They made their way through the foliage into the area where they trapped the genin team following them.

They found the three strung up in their trap. Two of them were attempting to saw at the wire with kunai but to no avail. Kiba called out to them, “No way you are cutting through that—it's harder than steel.”

They all paused and scowled at him and his team. He stopped in front of them and said, “Which one has the scroll?”

They scowled at him, “We're not telling you!”

Hinata was quiet and he turned to her and she quietly pointed to one of them, “In the left pocket of his back pocket in his pants.”

Kiba nodded with a click at their baffled faces, “Great, now just got to get it from'em.”

They stared at him with fear when Shino suddenly declared, “I will get it, after all.”

They all turned to him but Kiba only nodded with a huff, “Fine, make it quick. We don't want to deal with everyone when they start getting desperate.”

Nobody moved at his words and Kiba rolled his slit eyes and shuffled his feet while Akamaru whined into his ear.

Finally one of the guys said, “Are you going to—”

The other screamed as he started batting at his clothes. His teammates turned to him with confused faces as he continued panicking and patting desperately at his clothes. He screamed out, “There are bugs all over me!”

The others, realising what was happening, attempted to kill the bugs and Shino said, “Please refrain from killing the ants. They can be quite dangerous when threatened.”

One turned to them, “You! You're one of those Aburame freaks! Made of bugs!”

Kiba curled his nose, “Shut up, would you! Yelling at us won't change the fact that we have your scroll.”

Shino said nothing and Hinata hung in the back looking more and more nervous. He waited as they panicked and screamed as more bugs surrounded them. Multiple bugs crawled out holding up a scroll. Shino plucked it gently from them and thanked them as they scattered. The other genin attempted to throw their weapons at them desperately but Kiba caught one easily with a scoff.

They turned to leave when one said, “Won't you at least let us down so we can try and get back the scrolls?”

Kiba paused and said coldly, “If you three can't even figure out how to get out of a simple trap you sure as hell don't deserve to be chunin.”

They went on their way. Kiba is in the front with Hinata pulling up the rear. They all stayed on the lookout as they started their path towards the centre and to the building. Kiba stopped for a moment and looked around, “We’re gonna need shelter for the night. I don’t think the path will be close enough to run all through the night.”

Shino and Hinata nodded easily enough and began grabbing food and setting up traps and schedules to sleep.

Kiba picked up a scent and called to the others, “There is water nearby—I’ll be right back.” They both said nothing and he sighed, “Let’s go Akamaru.”

A small pond was under a tree. He and Akamaru dug out a small tunnel into it, he pulled out his water pouch and dunked it into the water. It should be good for drinking, it was underground and filtered and he could see it was quite deep with running sounds close by. He washed his face and Akamaru took deep gulps. He pet his pup with care and an inhale, “Come on, let’s get back to the others.”

His filled pouch was pleasantly heavy on his hip as he jumped back up towards the others. They had finished laying the traps and were quietly talking next to some plants. He cleared his throat and they both turned to him, “I have clean water—I found an underground pull over there.”

Shino nodded and Hinata thanked him. He sat it down and paused. A horrible smell was close by and his nose wrinkled, “Oh Sage, what is that?”

They both turned to him again and Hinata asked concerned, “Wh-What, Kiba-kun?”

He waved them off, “Just a like...rotting smell is nearby. Like something died.”

They both tensed and Hinata silently activated her Byakugan. She looked around and froze and gasped loudly as they both scrambled over to her. They gathered around her and she shakily pointed in a direction, “T-T-There is a c-creature. Over t-there, it lo-looks like a p-person. B-But it’s...so u-u-unnatural.”

He turned sharply and sniffed towards where she was pointing. It still smelled horrible and blood was tinting the air.

Shino inhaled sharply, “The bugs are fleeing from that direction. They feel and see something horrible. Dark and aggressive. It’s no genin.”

He held his nose and Akamaru let out a loud desperate cry. He held his close and rubbed behind his ears, ignoring the smell he whispered calming things to him.

Hinata was still staring terrified at whatever she was seeing, “Th-there are o-others. I-I-I can’t s-s-see with t-the bl-bl-bloodlust...”

Kiba held his pup close as they all stared off at whatever creature was in the distance. The powerful and deadly chakra was creeping closer as they stayed down. Hinata continued to

watch at nothing and Shino guarded his bugs as they fled the scene. Kiba wanted to plug his nose and close his eyes but he needed to stay up as night crept closer.

A loud guttural scream pierced the air and he stood and stared. The feeling of the overwhelming deadly chakra was pushed away as he stood frozen.

“That's Sakura,” He said with certainty.

Hinata scrambled next to him and put her small hand on his still shoulder, “K-K-Kiba-kun...”

“We can't,” Shino said, “We don't know what that is.”

“I do,” He proclaimed, “That's one of my best friends in need of help.” He sat Akamaru on his head and pulled his hood up and grabbed his items, “Follow me if you want—I'm going to help her.”

He ignored their protest as he booked it towards the haunting presence.

—

Lee kicked his opponent in the head with ease as his teammates took care of the other two. His opponent collapsed against the force of his kick and he kicked them once more to ensure their unconsciousness. He looked over at Tenten to see her hit her own enemy with the handle of her knife. Neji was already digging through the third one's pockets and hiding spaces.

He pulled it out looking victorious before sneering, “Earth.”

Tenten sighed as she put her weapons away, “We still have time.”

“It will be night soon,” Lee declared, feeling concerned, “Night is where all the true monsters will come out.”

Neji huffed and Tenten rolled her eyes with a fond smile, “We will have to find shelter.”

“Obviously,” Neji stalked off in a direction. Lee felt his unhappiness bubble up but he ignored it and turned to Tenten with a wide smile, “Don't be upset—this is our first encounter, though it has been quite a few hours we still will find our Heaven Scroll!”

She blinked her brown eyes at him, “Okay.”

He nodded and followed after Neji.

The area they found themselves in was more than likely the thinnest area in the whole forest. There were multiple clearings and fields and few places to hide.

Neji had found a hollow tree and was already putting in wire for the night. Lee hopped in and sat his things on the ground, “Good find Neji! And I'm sure by tomorrow we will have our scroll.”

His male teammate said nothing as they set up their items.

Tenten sat down and leaned against the bark, “Do you know where our allies are?”

Neji slowly sat down, “I spotted them entering on the almost opposite side to us.”

She sighed, “Damn, we won't be able to get to them.”

Lee lay on the ground, “We will have to meet up at the building in the middle.”

“If they make it,” Neji murmured as he sat his pack down.

“They'll make it,” Tenten rolled her eyes.

“They will!” Lee agreed, “They all seem very capable, and If not they can have our extra scrolls.”

Neji looked away and Lee sighed in his mind and rolled over. The sun was beginning to set and Lee wondered about the other opponents. He was easily confident in his skills and his team and they didn't plan to stay in the forest long. He looked over at Tenten and asked, “Do you think Haruno-senpai's sister is as good as him?”

She blinked, “Sakura? Maybe, I know he trains her and helps her.”

He blushed lightly thinking about her, “Yeah, she looked real strong—I bet she is a good sparring partner.”

She chuckled lightly, “Yeah, sparring partner.”

Lee turned away from her as she laughed. He heard her say to Neji, “I'll take the first watch.”

A shuffled Neji laid down across from him and he closed his eyes, fine to have Tenten watching over them.

He felt a hand slide over his wrist and his brows furrowed. The thick calluses were clearly Tenten's and he felt her tap his wrist and he turned over to face her. He opened one eye to see her eyes squinched close.

He asked her quietly, “Tenten, why are you—”

“There is someone watching us,” She ground out, “I wanted to wake you up without them noticing. Their chakra is large enough to make me worried enough to wake you and Neji up.”

He blinked awake, “How long has it been?”

“Not long, not even an hour,” Her eyes were still closed, “You both immediately fell asleep.”

He nudged Neji with his foot and watched as his entire body twitched awake. He turned to Tenten again, “How close are they?”

She pinched her lips, “Almost on top of us, I think they are trying to find the entrance to the tree.”

Neji was clearly listening in at this point to which he quietly mumbled, “Let them come in, they can trigger the traps and we can take them by surprise.”

They all waited with bated breaths as they crept closer to them. He was finally able to hear them as he heard creaks and snapping as they went around the tree looking for the entrance to get to them.

The second a foot sprung the traps they were up and flying out of the tree.

Lee got into position as he took in the group that attacked them. He didn't recognize them and he quickly ran at the one in front of him with a yell. He could hear his teammates follow behind.

The one he went for was clearly not as built for taijutsu as he was when he punched and they caught it. Their wrist popped at the impact and he swept their feet out from under them while they were distracted by the pain.

He went for another kick and had to jump back when the ground under him moved, ‘*A ninjutsu type, hm?*’

He grinned happily, “I look forward to beating you.” And he jumped over the ground and aimed the kick for their head. They dove under him and dodged again and another wall of Earth flew under him. He threw his arm out and flipped over it.

They stared at each other and he ran for them, ‘*All I have to do is keep them from using their hands.*’

He threw his weight to the side and off the tree and next to them in an instant. He grabbed their arm and punched them in the chest and they let out a gasp and he flipped them and restrained their arm. They pushed his leg out from under him and he fell back.

He caught himself and nodded to himself, “You are very capable for not being a hand-to-hand fighter.”

They looked almost nervous at his words and he grinned, ‘*They look exhausted and their chakra must be low after using multiple earth jutsu. And he's not even breathing hard.*’

He pushed more effort into his legs and flew at them in a blink. He hit them multiple times in the chest and in the shoulder. They fell back but he was unrelenting, hitting over and over as they attempted to block and hit back.

A sudden feeling washed over him and his body locked up. He could see his opponent do the same. An odd, *horrible*, disturbing feeling was in the air. He breathed in a very faint smell of metal.

He restrained his enemy in a daze and pushed them to the ground while he held their hands. He looked to see his own teammates looking confused at the feeling. Neji has already taken out his while Tenten was in a similar situation to him.

He watched Neji activate his Byakugan and look for the oddness.

His enemy squirmed under his hold but he barely moved as he called, “Neji! What do you see that could be causing this terrible feeling?!”

Neji stared off into the distance with an uneasy look on his face, “A battle between our allies and another ...genin.” He almost hesitated on the last word.

Lee winced sympathetically, “It must be a terrifying battle for such a daunting feeling to be reaching us.”

“No,” Neji squinted his bulging eyes, “It's something else...”

Tenten dodged a hard hit to her stomach, “Neji! A little help?!”

Lee bent over and hit his opponent to knock them out and was about to call Neji when he heard something far off.

A scream, loud and in pain was in the distance. His eyes widened as he heard it, “Neji! Tenten! They are in trouble, bad trouble!”

Neji was helping Tenten and she said loudly, “We know that! They are clearly in their own battle!”

He shook his head as the scream echoed in his head, “No...something is wrong. We have to go help them.”

Lee watched as Neji finally hit their last enemy. Tenten turned to him with a raised brow, “What happened?”

“A scream,” He grimaced, “Sakura’s scream—she sounded like she was in pain. And scared.”

She turned to their other teammate, “What do you see?”

“It was blurry,” He recalled, “The chakra was too thick to see completely through and that force was...dark.”

Lee looked at his bandaged hands, “Something is wrong. No genin should be able to put off such a horrible feeling, not that bloodlust.”

“Lee—” Tenten said but he cut her off.

“No,” He said firmly, “We need to go help them. Not just to make sure they pass, but to make sure they are alive.”

Neji looked unhappy but he respected him and it filled Lee with joy as Neji gave his approval.

“Good,” He nodded to both of them, “We will have to run through the night!” He yelled back as he started running in the direction of dread.

Chapter End Notes

the stage is set! Now Orochimaru! fucking creepy bastard
also I had fun writing these three. next chap will be finding out what happened..
i really enjoyed new perspectives, however, something interesting might happen next
time. As in the cursed mark stuff y'know

Sakura Eighteen

Chapter Notes

sorry, I was busy, Binging all of death note.
enjoy a busy ass chapter

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Sakura carefully got the water into the other two's pouches. They had found a small pond and she was taking the opportunity to refill everyone's things. She walked back over to them and sat in front of them with a smile, "All filled!"

Naruto quickly started taking large gulps from him. He pulled it away with a satisfying exhale, "Thanks Sakura!"

"We should head south," Sasuke quietly said, "A river is there and we will probably find other teams waiting."

She furrowed her brow and cocked her head, "Did you memorise the map?"

He glanced at her and she gaped at his eyes, "You used the Sharingan?!"

He shrugged, "We needed to remember it."

"But Kakashi..." She trailed off and shook her head, "Fine, whatever, but if something happens it's not my fault."

He looked surprised before scoffing, "Nothing will happen. I know what I am doing."

She rolled her eyes, "Sure, that's why Kakashi-sensei has to teach you."

They glared at each other and Naruto stepped in between the two, "So what are we gonna do?"

Sakura winced, "It's hard to say. We don't really have any of the benefits the other teams have. We aren't like Kiba's team which is entirely made of trackers or Ino's which are made for trapping and eliminating our allies and their brute strength and Hyuga."

"The river," Sasuke repeated, "Is our best bet for finding and trapping people."

Sakura sighed but nodded, "It is, but it puts us at risk for multiple teams finding us."

"But it's our best bet for finding and getting a scroll," He replied stubbornly.

"I'm not disagreeing with you," She said, attempting calmness, "We just don't want to get out or be *killed*."

Sasuke simply sighed and said, "We won't. But it's our best bet."

Sakura finally agreed and they made their way to the river to hunt.

As she hopped to the next tree she glanced at Sasuke, "Hey, Sasuke, what has Kakashi-sensei been teaching you about your...eyes?"

He seemed to stumble before shrugging it off, "How to turn it on and off and not funnel all of my chakra to it in a panic."

That made her blink, "But I thought he couldn't turn off his sharingan?"

"He can't," He grunted, "But he's taught...Uchiha before and knows to use it."

"Man, isn't that cool!" Naruto laughed, "Maybe Kakashi-sensei will start training us again after this?"

Sakura chuckled, "Yeah, that would be the day."

The smell and sound of the river grew closer and Naruto paused, "I gotta go to the bathroom."

Her and Sasuke stopped and she glanced at him disbelievingly. Sasuke pinched his nose, "Are you serious?"

Naruto nodded desperately, "I've been holding it in since before the first part!"

She grimaced, "Fine—just step away for a second."

Sasuke silently agreed with her.

Naruto wandered into the bushes, waving them away.

She awkwardly stood there for a moment before sitting in a branch next to her with a sigh. The entire place was dark, damp and ugly. No colour and no air to breath. They arrived here hours ago and she bet people were already fighting and even had their other scrolls. She somehow felt far behind even though the fight barely began.

"What're you worrying about?" He asked stiffly.

She didn't even glance at him, "All of this, and not wanting any of us hurt, and missing Ren and even Kakashi-sensei."

He said nothing for a moment before mumbling, "You have no reason to worry. Your brother and Sensei will be fine and we...will be safe."

She squinted at him, "Are you trying to comfort me?"

He said nothing at all and let out a snort, “Thanks—that does make me feel better. Don't worry I'll get over it. I'm probably just being paranoid.”

His body language seemed more relaxed now and she felt a small smile appear on her face.

The bushes nearby ruffled and she stood with a sigh only for Sasuke to jump in front of her. He had knives in his hand and looked ready to fight.

“Sasuke!” She quietly chided, “Leave Naruto—”

“It's not Naruto,” He gritted his teeth, “His chakra is...strange. Whoever that is doesn't have Naruto's usual chakra signature.”

She pulled him further back until they were hidden in some bushes. And ‘*Naruto*’ jumped out. They both watched as he looked around looking confused and she noted his bag on his leg was on the wrong one. Naruto was right-handed meaning whoever this was was left-handed, as they kept their weapons on the wrong side.

She realised something, “We don't know what they did—they could have incapacitated Naruto.”

He grimaced and said, “We have to rush past him and go for where Nartuo was. His teammates could be holding him hostage. We need to get to him first.”

She nodded determinedly, “Okay, on your mark.”

He glanced at her surprised but agreed, “One, two...three.”

They burst out of the bush and passed their fake teammate, who quickly followed after them with narrowed eyes. The disguise was sliding away as they ran after them. Sauske went high and she hung low and he yelled out, “He's down there! Tied up!”

She followed his gaze to see a bright figure in the grey dark. She let out a gasp as a shuriken flew past her. She turned and threw hers and called to him, “I'll get Naruto! Distract them!”

He dove down next to her and threw his own weapons. She ran and braced herself as she hit the ground next to her teammate.

Naruto's big blue eyes looked up at her and he yelled behind his gag. She could hear the battle rage behind her as she cut him out and plucked the sock.

He blinked happily up at her, “Sakura! You came to save me—!”

“Get *up* !” She yanked him up and they turned to help Sasuke as he continued the one-on-one fight. She intercepted the figure and threw him with all her might to the side. “CHA!” She yelled as she threw.

He hit a tree with a loud impact and they surrounded him. Sasuke snarled out, “Give us your scroll!”

He held his hands up, "I'm afraid I don't have my team's scroll." He said behind his mask.

She sighed, "He's probably not lying. He's all alone and attempted a stealth attack." Sasuke agreed with her and she asked Naruto, "Was there anyone else around him or...?"

"Just this guy," He told her, "I don't think they're around."

The guy with his hands still up started, "I know how this must look, but I'm only supposed to be looking out and I saw an opportunity and I—" His whole body seemed to freeze and they stared at him confused.

"Um, hello!?" Naruto waved his hand, "You good?"

She felt deja vu as she stared at his still, cold face. She felt herself tense, "What is it?" Her teammates glanced at her but she kept her eyes on the frozen boy, "Who is it!?"

"Sakura, what are you talking about?" Sasuke whispered harshly to her.

"It's chakra!" She snapped back, "Overwhelming deadly chakra! Like Zabuza! It's when you push your chakra out! It makes you look like that!"

They both tensed and looked around and the boy finally stuttered out, "How can you not sense it...?"

"Where?" Sasuke asked as his face lost composure, "Where is it coming from?!"

He looked like he might speak but froze and this time...she felt *it*.

An overwhelming wall slammed into her and her knees capitulated. She hit the ground with no feeling except for mind numbing fear and terror. The chakra in the air was old and *powerful*. Not like Zabuza or Haku—this was worse than anything she's ever felt.

She could barely hear as Sasuke seemed to freeze and Naruto held on stronger than her or Sasuke. Although she suffered the worst as she laid on the ground with pure cold air in her lungs.

A sly, slithering voice hissed out from around them, " *Where* is it? *Who* is it? *What* is it? " They laughed hauntingly, "I believe, *I* hold all of those answers."

Her skin crawled and she tried to force her body to move but she could only look around from the ground. Naruto was carefully shuffling closer to her and Sasuke, who was standing, but struggling to not crack as his eyes flashed in fear.

A body flew over her and she felt her breathing strike and they continued speaking, "I was going to wait for another moment but this...is too good to pass up on."

Naruto's foot hit her arm and her entire body flinched.

"After all, how often do you find your targets lined up and *waiting*?" Their voices echoed around and terror crept up and down her spine.

Target?! Sasuke! Must be him and...me or Naruto...or maybe whoever this guy is? She stared hard at Sasuke and hoped he would receive her fear.

Her breathing which had grown shallower suddenly stopped all together and her eyes widened and a shriek built itself up her throat as a silhouette stood over her.

They were tall and slim, but it was the eyes that froze her. They were cold and haunting, amused and beyond deadly. They smiled a far too wide smile down at her, "You seem to be a little stuck. Here, let me help."

An iron grip wrapped around her leg and she was flying through the air in an instant. The world spun around her as wind whipped past her and she heard her teammates yell out to her. Her body felt frozen as she sailed through the forest and she couldn't even move her head. Her stomach flipped around as the world moved.

A loud pained yelp came out as her body crashed deep into a tree. Her eyes went blurry as the hurt flooded her brain. She feels blood seep down her back and arms. The tree was surrounding her with pricks and stabs. Her back was no doubt bruised and shredded. Luckily, she could now move her body.

The blurry, swaying trees made her stumble as she stood up. Her legs barely stayed under her, as she grappled to the blown-out tree. Her eyes searched for her team but she cannot see them.

Pink hair swung in front of her and she pushed it away and paused, her hand was heavily bruised. She followed it up to see blood running down her arm. She rolled her shoulders and blinding pain hit her.

My shoulders, dislocated or...? She reached her other arm back and froze, something was sticking out of her shoulder. *Wood, I have been slightly impaled in the back with wood,* hysteria built up and she let out a laugh.

A loud shuffling and she looked up, something was running at her and she squinted. She opened her mouth, "Nar-ut-o?"

The bright blob was coming straight for her and seemed to yell something. She blinked.

He appeared in front of her and stared wide-eyed, "Sakura, you look...here get on." He crouched down and she dazedly wrapped her arms and legs around him. He stood and her world swung. The running was blurry to her.

Naruto was speaking quickly to her as they ran, "...stay awake...I don't know what that thing...Sasuke is trying with a clone...Sage, you are losing..."

She suddenly clutched closer to him when she felt that dark, evil, chakra grow closer, "Nar-u-to!"

He swore lightly and increased his speed, "I...drop you...help...Sasuke!"

Something raced passed and she screamed, “SNAKE!” Naruto dove for the ground and a snake larger than some trees flew past where they were standing.

Naruto scrambled down and suddenly dropped her, “Sorry! Gotta...help!”

She blinked as he sped away with the snake following after him. Her hand came up to the branch stuck in her shoulder blades and decided to do something stupid.

She gripped it tightly and with her might tore it out.

Green eyes stared straight up as she came back for a moment. She looked down to see her holding a branch covered in blood. She dropped it without care and began pulling out medicine. *Bandages, morphin, and stitches.*

She took the morphin quickly, pushing away any discomfort. She drowsily readied her stitches and readied the thread. She pushed when an idea came up. Her hands came together and a clone appeared. They blinked at her in surprise and she held out her needle and thread, “Get started.”

They nodded their head and crept behind her, she could hear the sounds of battle creeping in around her and she closed her eyes.

The stitches were awful but she quickly did it with little problems. She hastily wrapped it with her bandages and stood on shaky legs. She took out a pill and swallowed it quickly and waited for the chakra to fill her body.

Chakra was the best natural healer, it took care of pain and most underlying pain. She was not exactly full of chakra, and whoever their attacker was used their chakra in a way to deplete theirs and they were clearly after Sasuke. She needed to get up, and help her teammates.

Her vision was returning to normal and the blood that was filling up the gauze on the wound slowed. She rolled her shoulders and was pleased when little feeling hit her. She began her run towards the dark presence and her fighting teammates.

The entire area was shrouded in dark, heavy chakra. The tall and covering trees made the darkness feel claustrophobic. She carefully followed the path of destruction, listening for slithering or creepy whispers. She winced seeing the tree she had hit. It was *brutalised*, a massive crater, it was a miracle she had even survived—let alone be strong enough to be walking around.

She crawled over a branch and paused. Her sensory skills were lacking but the small spike was clearly right in front of her. She jumped up and looked down with a gasp.

The person, tall and thin and pale, stood across from Sasuke, who seemed to be attempting to escape with little success. She could see snakes moving around the area and hastily covered herself.

She noted a wound on Sasuke’s leg. A stab from a knife, *possibly self-inflicted?*

The person suddenly looked straight at her with snake yellow eyes. They squinted and their voices echoed, "Do not think I can't see you. Why don't you come join us?"

She scowled, *she needs to get Sasuke out of here. Wrap his legs and turn off his damn Sharingan!*

A loud creek and she froze. Another quiet 'woosh' and she went straight through the ground. She screamed as the floor grew closer and she fast-thinking pulled out a knife and shoved it into the tree. Her body jerked at the sudden lack of movement but she ran down the rest of the tree with ease.

Her landing next to Sasuke was a little shaky but she kept her eyes on the smirking creature.

"Was that so hard?" They asked. Their eerie figure was haunting in the forest, "I did think I took care of you, but you seem a little more hardy than I expected."

She grit her teeth and scooted closer to Sasuke slowly. Sasuke had barely looked up at her since she appeared and fear was overtaking her mind again.

"Good thing the little jinchuriki is still so weak," They chuckled out, "My snakes are well enough to keep it at bay."

Her fist clenched at their casual dehumanisation of Naruto (*What is a jinchuriki?*) *They need to get out of here.*

"Who are you?" She called out and Sasuke jerked next to her.

They cocked their head, "My, my, do you not recognize me? It's been so long...has Hiruzen really stopped teaching students anything useful?"

Hiruzen? The Hokage?! "You know the Hokage?"

"*Know ?*" They let out a long laugh, "I believe I do...better than any of you."

Sasuke moved and she heard him quietly swear. She shuffled in front of him, "What do you want?" *They know the Hokage personally, someone he used to work with?*

"What do I want?" They were looking more and more amused, "I believe you are blocking the thing I was looking for."

Her knives were out instantly and she was in a fighting position, "What could you want with Sasuke?!"

"Sasuke...Uchiha," They called, gliding closer, "An interesting boy don't you think?"

"You want his eyes?!" She snapped back instantly, "Is that what you want?"

They paused and a creepy smile came up, "Aren't you a sharp one? But I'm afraid you are out of time."

They seemingly faded out of existence and her hand instinctively came together. She heard Sasuke run and jump away and right as they appeared in front of her, her replacement jutsu replaced her with a piece of wood.

A loud yell and she ran in the same way Sasuke was running to. The painful scraps and shattering behind her was rattling and she spotted Sasuke heading away. She used the jutsu again and a tree exploded where she was standing.

She tackled Sasuke down off the tree and to the forest floor. She watched eyes-wide as the terrifying creature flew through the air with a terrifying aura.

Sasuke caught them easily and she pulled out her bandages, “Pull up your shorts it needs to be wrapped.”

“Sakura...” He mumbled, “We need to keep moving.”

“You need your leg wrapped,” She growled at him, “The thigh is important—you can bleed out.”

“Where's Naruto?” He yanked his pants up and she quickly began wrapping it.

Her hands lightly shook and she cleared her throat, “I don't know—he wanted to come help but...they said that he was getting taken care of by the snakes.”

“Naruto's fine,” He quickly replied. She tied off and stood back up. Her hands were bloody and she wiped them off on her clothes with a grimace.

“Do you know where he is...?” Sakura asked.

Sasuke shook his head but made off anyway, “I can find him—just follow the paths of destruction.”

She inwardly snorted but gave him a nod. *He came this way after dropping me off, where is he? We need to keep an eye out for the snakes, especially if he's still fighting them.*

They seemingly ran in circles and she knew both of their chakra were draining. She wondered where the creature went, they must know where they are. Are they following them or just waiting?

Sasuke stopped and she almost ran into him, he pointed to the right, “Snakes—lots of them.”

They followed after the apparent snakes, she noted the damaged bark of trees and broken branches.

A sudden loud crash and they ran in.

She yelped startled, a snake flew past her and she ducked quickly. A bright, yellow and orange figure was running along it and she felt stiff.

Naruto had killed one of the snakes but the air was heavy with chakra. She jumped up to him, ignoring any strange feelings.

He turned to him and panicked but she hugged him tightly. Happy to be in his sunny disposition, she turned to Sasuke, "Get over here!"

He jumped but, surprisingly, walked over and allowed her to pull him in. Naruto suddenly lifted them both up with unordinary strength, "Sakura! Sasuke! You guys are alive! I was so worried—"

"Put us down, idiot," Sasuke scoffed

Naruto's grin never faded as he took the two, all bruised and bloodied in, "What happened ___"

"We got to keep moving," She regretfully interrupted him, "That creature could still be—"

"Isn't this pleasant?" That slimy voice called. They jumped into action and got into a battle position.

She felt herself shake and whispered to her boys, "We should open the scroll."

They both stiffened but she felt stern in her decision.

"All three of you, back together again," A shadow passed over them, "The genin team... fighting back-to-back-to-back."

Sasuke shook his head, "We are not opening the scroll."

"It's that or *die* !" She hissed.

"Still so stubborn..." They sounded amused, "Arguing over something so simple...when you should be running for your lives."

She pulled out the scroll hastily and prepared to break the seal when Naruto snatched it from her. His big eyes were desperate and determined, "We cant—we cant fail—"

His words trailed off and she blinked slowly.

"Don't worry, i'll make it quick since you've decided to stay still."

Her frozen form stared straight at Naruto as her hand came up to her own face. It was warm and wet and thick. She pulled it away and stared at the mass amount of blood on her fingers. Her eyes travelled down to see Naruto's chest.

Something was sticking out of his side and she thought of touching it delusionally. She looked back up to see Naruto's face frozen and in pain.

A loud scream, louder than anything that ever came from her tore from her throat. Her ears felt sticky and she felt her body get pulled away from the impaled Naruto. Her eyes stared at the figure which stabbed Naruto through the body. It all came in an instant.

“Orochimaru,” She said blindingly.

Chapter End Notes

I can't tell if I hate or love writing fight scenes, they are so difficult.

Sakura Nineteen

Chapter Notes

im so sorry for taking so long, this chapter kinda slowed me down along with some other projects im working on.

Thanks for all the kind comments, I love to get them.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

There was something wrong with Naruto. She had known this for a few, with his actions and abilities. He wasn't like normal kids or genin. He wasn't treated like anyone she's met; so hated and condemned.

She knew that now.

Staring at the hole in his side where he was stabbed she knew. Staring at him thrown aside while Sasuke pulled her desperately away, she stared at Naruto and waited.

Something was going to happen.

Sakura couldn't even focus on the terrible missing-nin chasing them or Sasuke trying to soothe her. She stared at Naruto and felt unsurprised when his body started twitching and a horrible feeling rose into the air.

Orochimaru paused in his pursuit and turned to Naruto. She ground her feet in and Sasuke attempted to continue, but she tugged on his arm, "Look at Naruto." She sounded eerily calm.

Sasuke looked pained before turning to see Naruto. His face changed in an instant from terror to surprise.

Naruto was standing.

Naruto was *glowing*.

Naruto was not Naruto.

It was surrounded by chakra, glowing and pure strength. It gathered around him like ribbons. The wound in his side was healing faster than anything—including Ren—had ever been. The area once alighted with Orochimaru's dark aura was overtaken by something completely unnatural. Whatever had taken over Naruto was not human.

It launched itself at Orochimaru ferociously. The Sanin easily dodged and looked more intrigued than frightened, "I see, quite the time to break the seal."

She and Sasuke were frozen as they watched a beast-like Naruto run around the man. Orochimaru was clearly stronger and more powerful and far more skilled, Naruto, even if he wasn't human, wouldn't last long.

She winced as Orochimaru sent Naruto flying. Sasuke tugged on her arm and she half-heartedly pulled away. It was captivating, the chakra surrounding the two.

Naruto was on all fours as he ran. Orochimaru was standing, staring dodging and letting him follow. She blinked and Orochimaru grabbed Naruto by the scruff and threw him at them.

She heard Sasuke yelp and she dove down and felt Naruto fly over her. Sasuke was holding him up with a grimace. Naruto was staring at them with bloody, red eyes; they were animalistic and narrowed. Her hands were suddenly shaky and sweaty, "N-Naruto?"

He growled loudly and Sasuke dropped him. Sasuke's eyes widened, "Sakura! Behind you!"

A massive presence behind her and a hiss. She desperately crawled closer to her team. Another hit and a growl. She furrowed her brow and turned behind her. A giant snake had attacked her. It was massive and no doubt a summon from the Sanin. But it hasn't bitten her. Something stopped it.

Her jaw dropped, "Kiba?!"

He was running down the bridge of the snake, getting closer to her. He jumped over its head and it seemed stuck.

He knotted it! Wrapped it around itself!

He landed in front of her and yanked her up, "Come on! We gotta get out of here!"

Sasuke glared at him, "Where did you—?"

"I felt his power! I was close enough when I heard you scream, Sakura." He pulled her to another branch and she felt Sasuke follow. A moment later Naruto followed seemingly slowly coming back to himself.

"Kiba, it's Orochimaru! The Snake—"

"The sannin," He nodded, looking grim, "I know, I should have realised it when I smelt him during the test. No one else smells like a rotting snake carcass."

"The sannin?" Sasuke was asking, "What is that?"

Kiba glanced at him as they continued running, "The legendary sannin, war heroes from the second war. Probably the strongest ninja ever produced from our village. Orochimaru went rogue, he left and started targeting Leaf-nin and any of our allies. I don't know what happened to the others. But Orochimaru..."

"What's with that guy?" Naruto's voice was gravelly and shaky like he was in pain trying to speak, "What did he do to me?"

Kiba's nose curled and Akamaru whined, "He didn't do that. You did that to yourself—" He paused and they all stopped, she turned to Kiba, "What is it? Why'd we stop?"

"Something's getting closer. A group of people?" He looked almost confused before shaking it off, "We gotta keep moving. I don't know why he went after you but we have to go."

"Where's your team?" She asked as they continued.

"I don't know," He gave her a half-hearted grin, "I just ran after I heard you scream. They might have followed, might not."

She winced, "Sorry, Kiba."

He shook his head and dodged a branch, "Don't worry about it, I would have come if it was Ino not just you."

"How are we going to get away from that guy?" Naruto asked, now walking normally. She stared at him concerned.

Kiba all but shrugged, "Just keep running until we either find an official or he backs off."

"He's not going to," Sasuke suddenly said, "He was after me."

Kiba grimaced, "Of course, after an Uchiha? Sounds about right."

"What do you mean?" Sasuke said.

Kiba shook his head, "Apparently he used to do stuff like this a lot, finding people with kekkei genkai and using or experimenting on them."

Sasuke looked uneasy and Sakura pursed her lips, "We should open the scroll."

"What?!" Naruto and Sasuke shouted.

Kiba blinked at her and shrugged, "It might be safer if you do, or you could try and head for the centre and hope some jounin are waiting for us."

They all winced and Sakura shook her head, "We need to do something now. He could kill us."

Sasuke stopped and she turned to look at him. He looked frustrated, "We can't just give up."

Naruto landed beside her and she fought the desire to flinch away from him. She pursed her lips, "We have to. This is too dangerous."

Sasuke glanced away from her, "We *can't*. Kakashi-sensei signed us up because he trusted us enough to become chunin. We have to...get stronger."

She felt angry, he was so focused on becoming powerful because of his past that he was willing to get all of them killed. She clenched and unclenched her fist. Her energy was almost

spent, the wound on her back was getting worse now. Her chakra was steadily running out and she didn't know how long she could last.

“Are you three really arguing right now?” A dry tone asked behind her. She spun around, but before she could lash out she was pulled into a hug. Ino clutched her close and whispered harshly, “What are you doing?! You have to run!”

Sakura pulled away to see all of team ten. They were clearly waiting on them. Kiba jumped down and wrapped his arm around Ino's shoulders.

Sasuke hissed through his teeth, “What are you all doing here we are—”

A loud crack and they paused. Shikamaru and Ino's eyes opened, “The branch—”

It splintered and they were all thrown to the ground. She quickly grabbed onto a tree and whoever was close to her. Naruto slammed against the tree with her and she looked away from him guiltily. She dropped and they all fell to the bottom. Sasuke and Ino were staring up looking for Orochimaru. Shikamaru was helping Chouji up and Kiba landed smoothly using his claws. Her shoulder ached.

Ino called them, “We have to go! This is dangerous.”

Sakura said sternly, “We have to open the scroll!”

“We don't know what it will do!” Sasuke said back.

“It doesn't matter,” Shikamaru interjected, “We should all just head back to the start. There will be people guaranteed there.”

“Shut up!” Ino and Kiba snapped. They were frantically looking around, “I can sense him, he's close.”

There was a long silence and she felt her teammates staring at her. Kiba had his claws and snarl out. Shikamaru was in a position to pull out his shadows, and Ino held a knife. Sakura gulped and pulled out her own. They were sitting ducks in a small surrounded clearing.

The darkness seemed to get closer and she knew Orochimaru was here, “What a spectacular catch.”

Ino gasped quietly and she could feel everyone tense.

“An Uchiha, an Akimichi, a Yamanaka, an Inuzuka and a Nara. And of course the nine-tails Jinchuuriki. A fantastic catch for any kekkei genkai hunter, but quite wasted for me, I'm afraid.”

Kiba scooted closer to her and wrapped a hand around hers (She refused to admit she almost collapsed at the warmth).

“I am only looking for one of you but If any of you are offering, I'll gladly take you up.”

She held her breath.

“I’ve tired of this game, I must be leaving soon, so I must do what I came here for.” A lunge and she almost jumped back, only to be grabbed and pulled up by Kiba. She could hear the others shouting as they too jumped up and she glanced back and her eyes widened.

Shikamaru had caught him in his shadow but almost immediately faltered under the chakra weight, but he must have known this based on how Ino had quickly grabbed him and pulled him with the rest of them. Chouji had nabbed Sasuke and Naruto and now they were all running from a Legendary War Veteran who is known for his hunting and capturing skills of clan kids.

Fuck.

Shikamaru’s quick thinking while slow lasting was useful in giving them a small head start and the sound of a furious Orochimaru following after them halted her breathing. Her green gaze again found her teammates. They had caught onto what was happening and were easily following along. It didn’t take a genius to see that Ino was taking them as close as she could to the middle in hopes of running into a jounin. Her boys heavily disagreed, but were forced to agree.

Orochimaru cut in front of them with a savage grin. They skidded to a stop and changed directions. It was a clear game for him and she almost wanted him to get it over with.

A snake raced in front of them and they were again carted somewhere else. She could feel Ino and Shikamaru’s frustration, they were doing well now. But they had no chance of actually getting away.

Orochimaru ran alongside them and flew into the air for a moment and she grimaced.

His head seemed to vanish but she blinked and *it had stretched itself across the forest and into Sasuke’s neck.*

Or it would have.

If Ino hadn’t attempted to reach her arm out and pull him away.

Orochimaru, like the snake he was, latched onto her pale arm.

Her blue eyes bugged out and she let out a scream and collapsed.

Sasuke’s eyes were stuck wide, staring down at the girl that took a devastating hit for him. She was twitching and something appeared on her neck.

A loud mocking laughter broke them out of their shock. Orochimaru stood with his hand on a tree with a cruel smile, “I’m afraid that wasn’t quite what I was going for, but I always have use for a Yamanaka. However, I do need to get this over with.”

Her teeth ground together and she almost lunged but Kiba kept her close. She could hear Akamaru shaking and whimpering and her grief increased. She didn’t know what to think, she

didn't know what happened to Ino and tears gathered. Shikamaru was exhausted from attempting to use his shadows to hold Orochimaru back but he still attempted to crawl to his teammate.

It was almost expected when Orochimaru disappeared again and reappeared in the middle of their group. Instead of going for Sasuke, he slammed his hand into Naruto's stomach.

He fell into himself and didn't get back up.

It was almost numbing watching as Orochimaru took out another member easily. Sasuke ran at him and attempted to attack, once it became clear they couldn't run anymore, but he was easily disarmed and thrown back.

Orochimaru cackled and looked around at their defeated and exhausted expressions, "What a weak group of children, far more pathetic than the generation before."

Sakura shook when his snake gaze passed over her.

"I think I shall leave now. I believe I have done plenty of damage." He looked over them and held his eyes over Ino, who was now being held by Shikamaru who glared when their eyes caught. Orochimaru only smiled savagely and attacked Sasuke. Sakura felt her body lunge but was held back by Kiba again.

In the end, they lay there exhausted with Naruto, Sasuke and Ino out of commission. Two of them with those strange marks now on their neck and the other was strangely unconscious. She and Shikamaru were exhausted of chakra, leaving only Chouji and Kiba in mint condition. Her back was slowly giving out on her and she felt Chouji's concerned gaze. Shikamaru and Chouji were desperately trying to wake and care for Ino, while she and Kiba gathered her team and attempted to wake either of them, but nothing.

They were left with nothing.

Nothing at all.

Chapter End Notes

uhhhh

poor ino.

I hope this chap is a little fulfilling.

Sakura Twenty

Chapter Notes

I am very sorry this took so damn long.
I promise I have a really good reason.
I went on vacation being one and uh.

my families dog passed away.
yeah, that hit me hard. I hope this marks me getting better at writing again.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

They barely survived through the night.

Shikamaru helped set up a schedule so someone is always up and taking care of the three wounded. She and him took the later shift in hopes of healing and regaining chakra. Kiba took first lookout, with his strong senses he would always be able to catch anyone getting close. She didn't like to be upset with him, but he held her back and kept her from helping Sasuke. Even if she understood why, he was attempting to keep her safe from the vicious predator that had found them. It didn't make her any less bitter.

She sat next to Chouji in the early morning. She carefully laid a wet cloth across Naruto's forehead and pursed her lips.

He was unconscious, but unlike Ino and Sasuke, he had no symptoms of anything. It just looked like a normal nap. No fever, no off mark, and no chakra depletion. It seemed like he was just...sleeping.

"Check his stomach," Shikamaru called to them.

She paused and looked at Chouji, who was covering Ino and Sasuke in a blanket and leaves, he nodded and she reached over and pulled his shirt up.

Nothing... "Nothing there."

Shikamaru sighed and came closer, "Are you sure? I thought I saw that snake light his hand. Like a seal."

She only shook her head, "There is nothing there. You can look if you want."

He collapsed next to her, "Nah, I trust you. I more worried about those two."

"Ino's fever is worse," Chouji informed them as he lay more onto the sweaty, pale girl.

“Getting worse or is worse than Sasuke?” Shikamaru interjected, stretching out like he was getting ready for a nap.

“Getting worse,” He said grimly.

She and Shika grimaced. Sakura looked around, “Where's Kiba?”

“Ran off to find plants to help,” He told her.

She nodded, “What happened to his team?”

Shikamaru closed his eyes, “They probably got attacked and had to wait out through the night.”

She said nothing. Naruto, Sasuke and *Ino* ; her teammates and one of her oldest friends. Of Team Seven she was the only one still standing, the only one who could get them across the finish line. She doesn't know what this seal even does. Shikamaru had the most practical knowledge and he had no clue. For all they know, that seal would leave them dead husks, drained of all chakra and life. It could be a leach or block, *anything* .

Kiba jumped over a log and landed next to them. He held out some leaves to Chouji, “That should help bring their temperatures down. Just put it in the water you give them.”

He nodded assuredly. Sakura quickly looked away when she and Kiba made eye contact. She clenched her fists.

Shikamaru and Kiba began quietly bickering like normal and she felt almost calm.

But not for long.

A simple trap did nothing to these ninja. The sound ninja, the genin team appeared with deadly intentions. Even with her lacklustre sensing abilities she could feel the cruel chakra in the air. It almost made her laugh, the chakra was so much weaker and sloppier than either Orochimaru or Naruto.

Kiba stood with a cautious air, “What do you want?”

The one with wrappings over his face stepped forward, “We are here for Sasuke Uchiha.”

Sakura was up and standing alongside Kiba in a second with a knife in her hand, “What do you want with him?!”

The guy continued, “To fight, now wake him up.”

Shikamaru appeared next to her, “Are you blind? We can't, which means you can leave as you won't be getting that battle for Orochimaru.”

Her face curled at her words, she knew he was right, they were here because of him, “Yeah! What did he do to him anyways? If he wanted you to fight him, why did he knock him out?”

They all tensed and looked aggressive.

“Then I guess we will have to wait for him to wake up!” The other boy called, he stood and all of them got into position.

“You really want to do this?!” Shikamaru yelled, “It's four against three. You really want to try your chances? You don't know anything about us, after all we survived against Orochimaru.”

They paused and seemed to consider his words but the wrapped guy seemed to dismiss this, “With how protective the Akimichi is, I doubt he will be leaving any of your friends' sides. As for you three...your weaknesses are obvious.”

She could hear both Kiba and Akamaru growling and she felt shaky, *our weaknesses?! He could see through us that easily?! No way!*

“Zaku, you will take Sasuke when he wakes and Kin...we will take these three.”

She gaped at his audacity. To lower his chances of winning by taking out one of his own members, *he must think very highly of himself...or he's as good as he portrays himself as.*

Kiba froze and stared in the distance and hissed under his breath, “Damn! More of them!”

She and Shikamaru froze at his words, *more?! However, the three looked confused, clearly they weren't planning on more people showing.*

A green blur flew into the clearing and landed next to them. Her heart felt like bursting from the relief that hit her. She grinned, “*Lee !*”

He was crouched in a powerful stance and looked over at her with concern, “Sakura! And... Sakura's friends! What is happening?”

Answers burst out of her, “They attacked us on Orochimaru's orders, they want Sasuke! But he was unconscious along with Ino and Naruto.”

Lee rolled with it, “Got it! So it is up to us to defend them!”

Shikamaru whispered to her, “You know this weirdo?”

She rolled her eyes and elbowed him, “Yes—I'm pretty sure he's stronger than all of us. So be nice.”

“Well, it looks like all three of us might need to get involved.” The wrapped man said coldly.

Four against three, because he is right, Chouji needs to keep an eye and help the three wounded. This is not the match she would have chosen. Lee is clearly a taijutsu user, and so is Kiba. She also favours taijutsu. Meaning the only person they have for defensiveness is Shikamaru, but his abilities are for trapping. His other ability is planning—but he doesn't even know all of his own team's skills, let alone their enemies.

She swallowed thickly.

“They are probably long range fighters,” Shikamaru murmured, “They aren't dressed or equipped with any personal items. And Sound-nin? Be ready to cover your ears.”

A quiet rip and she looked over to see Lee unwrapping his arms bandages. He got into a defensive position and saw Kiba do the same, claws out. She gulped and peeked at Shikamaru, “What do we do?”

“We—”

The bandaged man made for them, jumping and bursting at them. She gasped and put her arms up but Lee caught him. Her jaw dropped watching them grapple and then Lee situated himself and launched the other into the air.

Their jaws dropped watching the throw but while watching they were slightly distracted as needles flew towards them and hit Kiba in the arm. Sakura turned to see the girl holding more. She quickly hit them out of the air as they flew towards her as Shika did the same. Kiba stumbled and her eyes widened. Another pair of needles flew towards him and she ran and grabbed them before they hit.

She hit the ground and turned to Kiba and shook his arms, “Kiba, are you okay?”

He shook his head like a dog and grinned half-heartedly, “Yeah, I’m—” His face shuttered and he blinked quickly, “Sakura?”

Her lips parted, “Kiba, what’s wrong?”

The girl who threw them smirked, “I wouldn’t bother with him—he’s not breaking out of the genjutsu I have him.”

Sakura gasped and yanked Kiba away from more needles. She swore she heard bells ringing as she threw him into the pile Chouji was taking care of. She licked her lips and turned to Shikamaru who was very still.

“What do we do?”

Kiba was under a strong genjutsu—but the girl couldn't do anything if he was hidden away and with Lee fighting the bandage man, it was her and Shikamaru versus the boy with strange arms and the girl with needles. At least unless Kiba can wake himself up. She could hear Akamaru barking at Kiba, she winced in sympathy.

“It wasn't the needles,” Shikamaru quietly told her as they watched Lee match the bandage boy hit for hit, “It was the sound—it didn't matter if he was hit or not. All that was important was the bells on the needles. Meaning we can't even listen to her—and the boy, his arms have what look like holes, I wouldn't be surprised if they emitted a loud noise of some kind.”

They were both stopped as Lee took a hard hit and almost ran into them as he retreated back. Shikamaru grabbed her and pulled her suddenly as needles flew past her. She quickly put her

hands together. Her chakra flexed as it disengaged any genjutsu before it could hit. She blinked as she noticed a string.

“She's using string!” Sakura gasped to Shikamaru, “We can cut it.”

Shikamaru's gaze was sharp, “Or I can get her with my jutsu.”

Sakura peeked up at the other boy who was engaged in fighting Lee, “Then I have to take him.”

He nodded resolutely, “Yes—get in close, I doubt those arms are useful when you are right next to him.”

She pursed her lip, “Are you going to let her hit you?”

He shook his head, “Maybe—but it's all about sound. If I can block the sound and let her think she has me and then freeze her with my jutsu, she will be taken completely off guard.”

Sakura held his eyes and inhaled sharply, “Don't die.”

He rolled his eyes, “Yeah, yeah.”

She quickly stood and ran into the thick. Lee was struggling now, she wondered if he also got hit by genjutsu. He was still fighting but clearly losing. The other two were watching in clear amusement—as if watching their friend play with their food. Her jaw clenched as she passed Chouji taking care of the other three and Kiba slowly breaking out of the genjutsu with his help.

She quickly pulled a knife out and threw it hard at the boy with the strange arm. His instincts didn't seem too sharp as she observed as it hit him in the arm. Her jaw dropped as it impaled into the meat of it.

He let out a loud yell and yanked the knife out. His eyes immediately found her and she clenched her fists at the anger in them, “You want to fight?! Fine, I'll deal with you then kill Sauske—all before Dosu kills your ugly friend.”

He stood and before the other girl could get involved Shikamaru was jumping in to keep her distarced. She ran in to get as close as possible for the fight, all while ignoring the pain in her back.

Shikamaru was right and she took full advantage of this. This guy clearly didn't want to fight hand-to-hand and kept trying throughout the entire fight to get away from her, but she was relentless; staying close and attacking at the shallow differences.

It was actually relatively evenly matched. His hand-to-hand was worse than hers but he had higher stamina for obvious reasons. *(The wound on her back itched with every fist thrown but she ignored it—she had to protect her friends.)* She was hit, he was hit. She had no doubt the end would depend on another source; someone interfering.

She was right.

Sakura let out a pained gasp as the back of her neck was grabbed and she was thrown back. She rolled to a stop and quickly diminished the genjutsu that was attempting to fall over her. She stood hastily, the bandaged boy had gotten away from Lee, and Kiba who was now well enough to help fight back. He was seemingly barrating the arm boy who she was fighting.

A loud '*DUD*' and she looked over and gasped at the sight. Shikamaru, with Lee jumping in, had taken out the girl. She lay unconscious after getting hit by Lee with a tree branch. Shikamaru all but collapsed into the ground from, no doubt, chakra exhaustion. Tense, she grabbed him and pulled him towards the other injured. She all but followed him, breathing heavily with shaking hands.

Lee ran back over while Kiba kept an eye on the two arguing. She felt like smiling, it was two versus three now. And as they said, their weaknesses were relatively obvious. At least for the boy she fought—Lee just had to fight him. He would have no chance against him. She and Kiba could distract the bandage boy until Lee defeated him, then it would be three against one.

A small smile pulled at her lips at the thought but a strong influx of power caused her to freeze. It was like *Orochimaru*, dirty and rotting. Her eyes watered at the feeling.

Kiba had sensed it first and he spun around and seemingly stared at her. She froze and pointed to herself but his shaking head caused her to turn around.

Sasuke stood.

Her Sasuke.

Her teammate.

Except everything was wrong.

Ugly purple and black, *visible*, chakra surrounded and charged around him. Strange marks of black swirling curled on his skin. The feeling of chakra in the air was oppressing and she nauseated at the slight reminder of Orochimaru. His Sharrigan, which Kakashi-sensei told him not to use, was burning into her.

Chouji reached out to him with concern but her eyes met Sasuke's and held it.

His bloody red eyes stared into her green ones. Her hands shook at the look in them, icy and *hungry*. For blood or for the sudden power that flooded through him, she didn't know.

Her shaking frame spoke, "Sasuke?"

Shikamaru's blurry eyes were taking in the scene but he was able to move. Naruto was still unconscious. Ino was still twitching and started whimpering as well. Kiba was seemingly frozen behind her and Lee was watching keenly.

"Are you okay?" She asked thickly. His finger looked almost on fire with the strange black marks.

He stared almost blankly at her as the air around her tickled her skin. Finally, he said, “Sakura?”

She breathed in shakily, “Yes?”

“Who did that to you?”

Her bruised, beaten and bloody form trembled, “What?”

“Who did it?” His voice was darker, hungrier and furious. She could feel the stillness of the area. Their opponents even seemed slightly hesitant.

She almost gasped at his eyes, the tomoe, the source of the Sharingan now had another. In so little time he was stronger. The strength of his eyes has increased—and Kakashi-sensei still hasn't gotten to train him yet. But he seemed to be having no trouble using it now, he didn't even seem to notice the chakra drain it should be.

She silently shook her head and again asked, “Are you okay?”

He seemed to smirk and all his features changed, “Don't worry. I'm alright and with this chakra flowing through me...I feel *good*.” Movement behind her seemed to catch his eyes, “Was it them?”

She spun around to see the two sound-nin boys regrouping with the unconscious girl. They tensed at his attention but also got into a defensive positions.

She almost felt like yelling at them to run, to get out and save themselves but she found herself biting her tongue. A voice almost like Ren's whispered to her, “*Let him deal with them, they wanted to fight, well let them fight!*”

She pushed that away and shook her head, “No—”

“It was,” Shikamaru rasped from his spot leaning against the wall, “They tried to kill her too—would have succeeded if it weren't for Lee.”

Her jaw dropped and she stared at Shikamaru in horror but he looked at with a steady gaze. Her lips parted and he only shook his head looking defeated.

Her eyes shot up to see Sasuke taking a step forward and looking behind him. His eyes took in the sleeping Naruto and the restless and in-pain looking Ino. Her pale skin had no colour and her perfectly plucked brows were close together. Sasuke's gaze seemingly softened and she wondered if he was remembering that she took that bite for him.

His face seemed to be shrouded in darkness as he began walking over to the sound team. As he walked past her she was able to see the detail in the black swirls and the bite on his neck. *It was fuuinjutsu*, she thought to herself hysterically, *who knows fuuinjutsu?*

She never moved as she heard him get closer to their enemies. Her eyes watered as she listened to Kiba's gasp and Lee's quiet compassion. She stared as Chouji watched in fear and concern as he got closer.

She only turned at the screams.

The bandaged boy had been thrown into a tree branch and scratched deeply. The arm boy she fought had attempted to fight back but was now being held by those arms. Pulled back as Sasuke's foot pressed into his back.

Her eyes widened at the needless violence, *just finished them off! Scare them! Knock them unconscious! Don't torture them!*

The evil smirk at his lips as he threatened to break his arms. As the boy begged for him to stop. A loud crack and she felt herself moving, running closer. She watched through blurry eyes as Lee yanked Sasuke off who swung around as if to attack him.

She ran into the figure and wrapped her arms tightly around his body and pressed her face into his neck. She felt Sasuke freeze and embarrassingly tears started pouring down her cheeks, "Sasuke, it's alright, you don't need to fight anymore." Her voice which tried to be comforting broke at her words and the warmth of his body leaked out.

The awful feeling of chakra went still and she leaned her forehead against his shoulder. She swallowed heavily, "Please, stop."

He said nothing and no one spoke, but her eyes heavy with tears could see the black marks slowly vanish. Something like satisfaction attempted to rear up but she savagely pushed it down.

There was nothing to be satisfied of.

Nothing.

She jumped as a hand rested on her back and then another and another round of tears ran down. *He's hugging me.* She realised, *Sasuke Uchiha is hugging me.*

She could hear the sounds of fleeing but she didn't move. Letting him hold her as tight as she held him. She felt him tuck his face into her pink hair. She simply closed her eyes and allowed the constant exhaustion to overtake her, in the arms of her teammate.

Chapter End Notes

I had to keep the hug, its probably the only good part of Sasuke and Sakura's relationship in the show<3

Kakashi Ten

Chapter Notes

ugggggh
no words needed.
I am bleh. Enjoy chapter

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Kakashi had some of the best instincts of any ninja. He was poised and confident, his lineage heightened his senses and being in mortal danger for over twenty years has left him aware. His skill was not to be underrated and looked down upon—but his instinct was his deadliest skill. It was what every Hokage he served depended on. Thus he has grown to trust his iron skill.

So what was it now?

It's been almost four days since the second stage of the Chunin Exams began, none of rookie genin have been eliminated nor has Gai's team. There was one scare when they swore that the Kyuubi's chakra was leaking into the air, but it vanished within minutes so the fear was waved away. Kakashi did not have the best sensing skills like Asuma and Kurenai, but even he swore something darker was in the air.

However, his instincts told him something was wrong. *Something*. The only other person who seemed aware of this was Gai, who looked almost nauseous and kept glancing over his shoulder. He wondered privately what only the two were sensing.

It wasn't Sasuke, Sakura and Naruto. He knew if something truly horrible happened Sasuke and Sakura would overpower Naruto. They would protect each other no matter what. And if anything occurs, he could pull them out and protect them.

His grey eye slid over to Gai again, who was sitting tense, the last day of the event was occurring, and then they would be able to be in contact with their teams again. He cleared his throat hesitantly, "Gai, you don't need to worry about your team—"

"It is not my team I worry about, Kakashi," He interrupted him, thick brows still furrowed, "Something else is not right."

Kakashi sighed as he leaned into the pillows of the couch, "I...understand. I feel it too."

Gai's eyes shot up to meet his singularly showing eye, "You feel it too?"

"I do," He held his gaze, "But I don't know *why*."

Gai looked amused for a moment but it quickly faded, “I feel...worried. I am worried—I feel like I missed something or...someone.”

Kakashi took in the room, all the jounin left over as more and more teams left. It had been horrible, basically being locked in a room with some of the deadliest ninja in the world. He kept his eyes on the grass ninja jounin across the room. The one that kept him tense was that Sand-nin, the jounin for the Kage’s children, Baki. It was no joke to be the teacher of the Kage’s kids, it was the highest honour and most important role many jounin will ever take. Only the most capable of ninja are given the role. And the most trusted.

Being basically locked in a room with these people and told to ‘play nice’ while they all nervously watched out for their kids was not how he wanted to spend his days. Leaving his back vulnerable to those who are most likely to put a knife in it—great.

His attention snapped back over to Gai as he listened in to someone's conversation. Kakashi raised his thin brow, “What are they saying?”

“Apparently, at least three teams have finished now,” Gai informed him gravely.

“One of ours?” He asked nonchalantly, ringing his hands.

Gai chuckled, “Not ours—apparently Kurenai’s are done. I assume ours will be close behind.”

Kakashi nodded, not surprised, “Unsurprisingly, a tracking team would be the first one to finish.”

Gai smiled grimly, “Not the first, the Sand-nin were first.”

Kakashi measured his expression, “Also not surprising, Kage's children? I don't doubt they are some of the best of the best.”

Gai sighed heavily, “Yes, I suppose so.”

Kakashi cocked his head as he saw Asuma leave the room, “What’s going on with him?”

Gai didn't even look, “His dad.”

“The Hokage,” Kakashi mockingly said, “What? The usual?”

Gai shrugged, “If it's like we talked about...maybe they are considering him.”

“Doubt it,” He instantly replied, “Not devoted enough for our village's tastes.”

Gai’s foot began tapping again, “I want to train, rival.”

“Not allowed,” He clicked his tongue.

“I need to,” He stressed.

Kakashi paused and looked up at him and considered him. Gai was clearly energised, bouncing his leg and fiddling his hands. Gai was a training machine but he was also an expert in self-control. A ninja first, controlled and precise. Kakashi hummed, “Still feeling strange?”

Gai nodded mute.

Kakashi stood fluidly and made his way across the room. To leave their room their teams needed to fail, but if not...then they needed permission from the head jounin, the jounin commander. Shikaku Nara.

Kakashi casually moved around the room searching for the commander. He would either be locked in a room reading or working, or talking and facilitating with ninja from other villages.

Shikaku was not a typical Nara, no matter what he said or acted like. Nara's are renowned for their high intelligence *and* their laziness. They are exceedingly clever and very *bored*. Shikaku is a lot of things, intelligent and deadly, but that man is nowhere near lazy. Unlike any Nara's Kakashi has ever worked with, Shikaku is motivated and sharp, he is simply good at hiding it. There's a reason Shikaku might be considered for Hokage.

He spotted the man speaking to the two Sound-nin jounin. It seemed to be a very stilled and cold conversation, but Shikaku smirk told him he was getting everything he wanted out of them.

Kakashi stopped right behind him and waited as Shikaku dismissed the two, making Kakashi exhale.

The man spun around and the massive scars on the left side of his face pulled, “What do you want Kakashi?”

“I need an out,” He replied respectfully.

Shikaku sighed in his gravelly voice and said slowly, “Another? You're the fourth one asking.”

“Not for me,” Kakashi explained, leaning against a wall, “Gai needs to get out of here.”

“Gai? Does he want to train?” His voice was dark and cold.

“Somethings wrong,” He walked closer until they were shoulder to shoulder, “We both know it.”

That caught Shikaku's attention, he didn't stiffen or falter, but Kakashi knew he caught his gaze. Shikaku began walking away and Kakashi followed. He brought him to a room and all but shoved him and closed the door behind him. Kakashi turned to the man as he raised a brow.

Shikaku huffed, “Ill tell you something wrong—the fucking Kazekage's coming. The Hokage has me running around when I should be sitting in a bar waiting to see if *my son* is going to become a chunin. Especially with all the jounin that showed up, having to play nice and keep

them calm when their teams fail, or worse *die*. Now this bullshit—what's wrong with you and Gai?”

Kakashi blinked and said coyly, “Sounds like you have a lot on your plate.”

Shikaku groaned low, “Don't mock me, I'm dealing with enough shit. What do you want?”

“Somethings wrong,” He attempted to explain, “Gai and I know it, we just...can't figure out what.”

Shikaku blinked his sharp eyes, “...That's it?”

Kakashi sighed, “I know, it's not enough. But you know me, you know that I can tell when something is wrong, and something is *wrong* .”

Shikaku sat down and put his feet up on the table with a curse, “Damn Anbu.” There was a long silence as the commander considered his stance only to sigh, “At least you're not asking to pull your team.”

Kakashi shrugged, “You don't have that authority. I would have to go straight to the Hokage.”

Shikaku smirked, “But to get to the Hokage, you need my permission.”

“I wouldn't have submitted them if I didn't think they could do it,” He argued softly.

Shikaku stared through him, “Not if you had a contingency plan.”

He knows, he knows I can pull them...and he can't even pull his own son if something happens. “Of course.”

“And now...you want me to let Gai run off and do something. Leave his team behind if anything happens,” The man asked.

“I can clone,” Dropped out of his mouth, “Let him go and I will leave a clone here.”

Shikaku shifted in his chair, “A shadow clone? That's the only one that wouldn't leave suspicions.”

“It would leave me almost drained,” He told him.

Shikaku let out a long sigh, “What a drag.”

“Can Gai go?” He asked.

Shikaku clenched his teeth and said, “No, you get Kurenai and one shadow clone and forty minutes.”

Kakashi swore internally but knew that was the best he would be getting. He bowed respectfully and thanked him as he fled from the room. His long legs quickly took him to the

main room. He quickly nudged Kurenai as he made his way past her, gaining her attention and Asuma's.

He sprawled next to Gai, who froze and quickly looked to him. Kurenai and Asuma sat down with raised brows. Kakashi held up a finger and pointed to Kurenai and then Gai and he quietly said, "We get forty minutes, I land Kurenai eave using a shadow clone to go find whatever it is."

Kurenai interjected politely, "What are we doing?"

"Searching—that's the best Shikaku was willing to give us," He spoke to Gai who looked reluctantly appeased.

"You spoke to Shikaku?!" Asuma said, baffled.

"What *are* we doing?" Kurenai repeated.

He looked onto her, "Something is wrong, me and you have permission to go out for forty minutes to attempt to fix whatever the problem is. We should probably leave now."

Gai stood quickly and pushed them towards the exit with a grateful nod, "Please, find whatever it is that is bothering us. Be back soon, rival, I would hate for Shikaku to track you down."

Kakashi sighed and looked down at Kurenai who was clearly confused, "Are you ready?"

She was too smart to deny his request, she simply nodded and smiled at Asuma. Kakashi put his hands together and another him appeared. They nodded to each other. The shadow clone turned and made its way back into the room with Asuma and Gai.

He eye-smiled at Kurenai, "Let's get going."

She pursed her painted lips and followed after him.

Forty minutes to find whatever it was they were looking for. Whatever it was that was causing him and Gai to be constantly looking over their shoulders. He glanced over at Kurenai as they jumped over another roof, "Do you have any idea what our problem might be?"

She paused but quickly said, "Do either of you have any family you were supposed to check on or a mission you forgot about?"

He almost rolled his eye at the predictable answer, "No to the family and never to the mission."

She sighed, "Alright...what do you and Gai have in common? It has to be something only the both of you would be aware about."

Kakashi stopped and he suddenly changed direction and Kurenai hastily followed.

She called to him, “Think of something?”

“Someone,” He replied.

They jumped and ran their way across the village into the shopping centre where most of the stores lay. He jumped down startling a few dozen citizens. He could hear Kurenai following and apologising as he shoved open the door.

At the front was not Ren. It was the boy's mother and father. Kakashi stalked up to the desk and asked, “Where is your son?”

They both paused and the mother spoke, “He's...busy. Who're you?”

Kakashi withheld a sigh, “His old teacher—your daughter's teacher, Kakashi Hatake.”

They glanced at each other and the father spoke, “Ren is very independent. He told us he would be busy while the Chunin Exams were going on.”

“So, do you know where he is?” Kakashi huffed.

Kurenai came up next to him and laid her small hand on the counter, “He's not in trouble, we are just worried. It is *urgent* .”

“When the Exams began he ran off by himself. Said he would be in the village—he just wanted to spend these Exams alone.” The mother explained gravely.

Red flags waved in Kakashi's head, “Where is he?”

“He said he'd spend most of his time training—he's probably at the ninja fields.”

Kakashi turned and ran out of the room, not even pausing to hear them ask after Sakura. Kurenai followed with little hesitation.

They arrived at the training with no resistance and he quickly began patrolling through the large fields and trees.

He almost called his summons but paused and swore. Using a shadow clone was draining, and he wasn't supposed to exhaust himself. He turned to Kurenai with a sharp eye, “Are you a strong sensor?”

She stood tall, “Strong enough.”

“Good, go up and down the main trail and feel out for a mountain of chakra,” He commanded her and she nodded assuredly.

It did not take long for her to come across different ninja. They were either genin with their own jounin or chunin practising. Some were from other villages but most from the Leaf. It wasn't until they hit a heavily forested area that she paused at.

He stood tall behind her, “What is it?”

She shifted, “Someones there...but somethings wrong. Like someone is sleeping or... injured.”

He flew past her into the woods. He jumped and flew over the trees as he realised the time, it had been at least thirty minutes. His hand skimmed a branch and froze as he felt the chakra. It was light so light it rested in the area, but there was a massive amount of it. It had the feeling of dying chakra.

He jumped through a bush and his heart almost stopped. Jumping into action, he leaned down and stared.

Ren laid among ninja wiring. It was tied around his arms and legs, holding him hostage. His skin was pasty white with no colour, and his pink hair looked almost dead. His veins were stark against his skin—he didn't seem to be breathing.

Kakashi felt his breathing falter and eyesight dimmed before snapping into action. He destroyed the wire and lifted the boy into his arms carefully. A loud gasp and his gaze shot up to see Kurenai standing, staring. He pulled Ren closer in his arms and tucked his pale, unconscious face into his chest. Kakashi swallowed as he realised how shallowly Ren was breathing.

“Was he kidnapped? What happened?” Kurenai asked swiftly.

Kakashi shook his head and began running towards the hospital. Kurenai followed without a word. He flew into the hospital and froze and swore. Most of the important stuff wasn't here, they were at the Chunin Exams treating and waiting for genin to come in. His forty minutes were also ending.

Kurenai had already realised this as she held the door open as he booked it towards the jounin headquarters. Carrying the dying boy looked highly strange to the civilians around him, as they gasped and moved for him.

Running took over five minutes, getting to the headquarters they were staying in for the Exams. Flying into a side window he moved fluidly, dodging any other jounin. He made his way to Shikaku's current office. He swung the door open.

Standing in the room was not just Shikaku, but Asuma and Gai. Gai gasped and Shikaku swore quietly, “Get those medics ready.”

Asuma was out the door instantly and Kaksahi raised a brow, “How did you know?”

“Your clone popped, randomly, something must have happened. Didnt assume it was a child,” Shikaku said dryly as he walked over and held his hand over Ren's bright pink head.

Gai came closer with what looked like tears in his eyes, “Oh, my precious student, what happened?”

Kurenai spoke up, “He was tied up in the middle of nowhere, he doesn't have a single weapon on him. It's like he tied himself up.”

“Did he?” Shikaku mumbled.

Kakashi said nothing, only clutched his older student tighter as his cold breath hit his neck. Gai continued to cry over Ren, murmuring and whispering assurances that only Kakashi could hear. The medics carefully came into the room and Kakashi shifted and laid the tall boy onto the cot they brought in, and slowly shuffled him away.

Kakashi could feel dissociation take over as he watched blankly. Gai’s hand latching onto his shoulder startled him heavily. Kurenai exhaled heavily as Asuma wrapped his arm around her shoulders.

Kakashi could feel Shikaku’s keen gaze on him as he stared after the pinkest of his students.

Chapter End Notes

OOooohhh NO

Timeline is, btw, ahead of schedule from Sakura's chaps but not by too much.

Sakura Twenty-One

Chapter Notes

nice

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Naruto woke up after all the fighting occurred.

It frustrated Sakura to no end, he missed everything and then woke up feeling and acting fine. He wasn't acting like Sasuke who barely left her side and seemed to be introspective. He wasn't suffering like Ino, who was still sleeping and seemed to be getting worse—she looked sicker than when Ren was young and had to be taken to the hospital. She and Chouji were running back-and-forth trying to keep her temperature down and keep her comfortable.

But Naruto woke like he was coming out of a long, dreamless sleep.

She sat heavily next to Lee as she watched Sasuke stare at Ino. She turned to him with a half-smile, “Thanks for coming and helping—we couldn't have done this without your help.”

He was bruised and very slightly bloodied but he blushed all the same, “Of course, how could I not come help when I heard your cry? I vowed to be your ally, so I will come.”

She could feel the swelling on her face as she grinned widely, “I'm glad you're my ally—where's the rest of your team?”

He paused and blinked his large black eyes, “I believe they were attacked when we were running. I am much faster than my teammates, especially when I have someone to protect.”

She nodded and looked up to Kiba and Akamaru and called to him, “Kiba-kun! Where are Shino and Hinata-chan?”

Surprise lit up his face at her talking to him but then a scowl took over, “I don't know, they're probably still waiting to see if I come back.”

Lee's mouth frowned, “Did they not follow after you?”

He shrugged in his oversized coat, “Maybe, they definitely didn't want me to leave. We were in the middle of catching a team—I don't know if it was the wrong scroll.”

“We also just finished fighting, but it was the wrong scroll,” Lee said.

Akamaru barked from the ground and Kiba hummed, “What scrolls do you guys have? Maybe we can help each other.”

Lee opened his mouth but paused, then shook his head, “I am not sure it is wise announcing what we have. Even if I am sure my team would beat yours, we do not know who could be listening.”

Kiba only laughed at his comment and Sakura felt her own lips turn up and Lee’s casual declaration. Kiba waved his arm, “Maybe, but I don't want these fights to go to waste. After all that and not even getting a scroll for Sakura and her team.”

Sakura picked a branch out of her hair and agreed, “I wish we got a scroll, especially after dealing with...Orochimaru.”

Kiba looked grim and Akamaru let out a high whine. Lee turned to her with a curious look, “What happened with Orochimaru?”

She winced and went over what happened. Them getting attacked, her getting thrown (Not what happened with Naruto, that was a conversation for her team) him attacking Sasuke, Ino showing up and taking the hit, Naruto getting knocked out and finally Sasuke getting bit. Then getting attacked by those Sound-nin that were clearly sent by Orochimaru, it has been a rough three days.

Kiba let out a humourless laugh, “Barely three days, four more to go.”

Shikamaru spoke up after listening to their conversation, “We should trade what our scrolls are, at this point I think we have to trust each other.”

She pursed her lips, “We should but as Lee said we don’t know who's listening in.”

He rolled his eyes like she said something stupid, “Speaking is not the only way to communicate.”

She paused as she remembered their fight and let out a loud snort, they all turned to her confused but she giggled hysterically, “I don't know what happened to our scroll.”

“How do you not know what happened to it?” Kiba asked, confused.

Because I thought Naruto died, “Naruto had it during the fight—I don't know what happened when we got separated.”

Shikamaru’s eyes narrowed clearly sensing her lie but Sasuke surprisingly spoke up, “He still has it.” They all turned to him as he leaned down and dug through Naruto’s pockets, “Here.” He tossed it to them lacklusterly and she snatched it and quickly tucked it away.

She thanked him and turned to see Shikamaru struggling to his feet as Chouji helped him stand. She observed as he snatched a stick on the ground and called for all of them to gather around. She, Lee and Kiba surrounded him as he put the stick to the ground. He paused and looked up at her, “Is your Uchiha going to join us?”

She peeked over to see him sitting next to Naruto and Ino blankly. Chouji was still pestering him about laying down and resting. She shook her head determinedly, “No, he doesn't need to move, I'll tell him how this goes later.”

Shika nodded and wrote on the ground the name of his scroll. He handed it over and Lee wrote his, who handed it to Kiba. Then finally to her where she wrote theirs. Lee blinked and quickly wrote a line to Shikamaru's and hers. Shikamaru mouthed, '*You have more Earth?*' Lee nodded happily and Shikamaru wrote the same to Lee's and Kiba's.

So Shikamaru has an extra Heaven scroll and Lee has an extra Earth, that means they could just trade and have the ones they need. She sucked in her teeth and looked at Kiba, I bet his team got the one they needed. if they didn't say they had the wrong one—it's probably because they had what they wanted.

She voiced her opinion to the three of them and they all nodded. Meaning of all of their teams, hers was the only one without a scroll to go with it.

At the end of it all, Kiba used his foot to rid the dirt of what they wrote with a grin. All they had to do now was find Kiba and Lee's teams, make the trade and then all of them could use their skills for one more scroll for her team.

Naruto woke up after that. Chouji called them over to him, slowly waking up with a smile. Annoyance scratched at her at his enjoyment, but she pushed it away. Naruto blinked up at her and murmured, "I was having the *weirdest* dream."

She reached her hand out and said, "Well, we are going to have to catch you up. A lot happened."

His gaze moved from Ino, who was still sleeping, to Sasuke who looked dead on his feet, and finally his big blues came to her, "What happened?"

She sighed, "Orochimaru—the person that attacked us—he was after Sasuke, Ino got bit instead but it...didn't matter in the end. We got attacked a few hours ago, these Sound-nin sent by Orochimaru. They wanted to kill Sasuke...we were able to keep them at bay."

He looked around, he saw Kiba and Akamaru, Chouji Shikamaru and Lee, his mouth opened and closed a few times before saying, "And uh...are you okay?"

She attempted to half-smile but she felt her eyes water, "Yeah—I'm alright."

He didn't look like he believed her and she felt a sob crawl up. He stood and in a second he was holding her tightly in a hug. A dam burst and suddenly she was sobbing into his ugly orange jumpsuit and grasping at its side. She could feel him shove his face as close as possible as if he isn't used to giving hugs; the thought caused her to cry harder.

It was all just so much, being in a tournament that wanted her to win or die trying, getting brutally attacked by a Legendary Missing Ninja and almost losing her boys and then having to fight the three Sound-nin. She's never doubted her want to be a ninja before, but she just felt so *exhausted* .

"Ar-Are you okay?" Her voice broke, asking the question.

He was quiet, but he pulled her closer. His warmth drew her in and a sudden thought made her giggle. He paused and asked, “Why are you laughing, Sakura?”

She shook her head, “I have hugged you and Sasuke today more than I have ever.”

He pulled away looking startled and loudly proclaimed, “You hugged Sasuke?”

At his name his head shot up and stared at them blankly, “What?”

Naruto pulled away from her and ran over to their third teammate. He all but tackled him into his own hug and she could hear Sasuke groan loudly in disgust and surprise. She let out a giggle.

A loud rustling and without thinking she pulled out a knife, she could see Kiba and Lee also ready to fight. Her hands gripped the handle so tightly she could feel it indenting into her palms. Her heart stopped as a body jumped out from behind a tree and landed in front of them.

Lee’s gasp of excitement made her sag with relief, “Tenten! Neji!”

Tenten was gaping as she looked around, “What happened?! Were you attacked by *the Hokage*?! ”

A long pause and Shikamaru murmured loud enough for everyone to hear, “Close enough.”

Neji’s eyes locked onto Kiba the moment he appeared and he called to him, “Where is the rest of your team?”

Kiba paused petting Akamaru, “Not here, why? You want to harass Hinata again?”

A dark look passed over his face. Surprisingly it was Chouji that interrupted their stare off, “Ino is waking up.”

Everyone seemed to move at once, running to her side and kneeling next to her. Sakura sat on the ground by her head and Kiba appeared by her. Chouji was pulling out stuff when she woke up and Shikamaru was next to him. Lee and his team stood over them talking under their breath.

Sakura tentatively asked, “How do you know?”

“Her heartbeat,” He said generally, “It was sped up most of the time but it’s slowed a lot recently, but it’s started to increase again. Her eyes are also moving a little—she’s waking.”

It was the most she’s ever heard Chouji speak but he sounded confident in his assessment. It sounded correct to her, and she froze waiting for something to happen.

A loud gasp then a pain filled scream and Ino was launched upright. Those awful black marks covered half of her body. It would almost be beautiful, it looked like flowers curling around her body, but the ugly power coming off her was overwhelming and stomach-

churning. Unlike Sauke who woke up covered with power and chakra, Ino was screaming and crying like she was dying.

Sakura instantly grabbed her arms and called her name. She could hear Kiba doing the same thing. Hearing Shikamaru asking Chouji what was happening made her almost panic, but she focused on trying to soothe her best friend's pain. Akamaru jumped into Ino's lap and barked and whined, rubbing against her trying to get her attention.

Ino's screaming fell off into loud gasps and sobs that wracked her slim frame. Sakura pulled her blonde head into her neck and hugged her tightly, all the while shushing and rocking her. Kiba held her hands and was whispering assurances and soothing words.

A hand on her shoulder made her jump, but it was just Shikamaru staring intensely. His gaze was unreadable and she flinched as another loud cry echoed around them. She licked her dry lips, "What?"

"The mark," He started, "Your Uchiha said it gave him vivid— *painful* dreams. It, apparently, convinced him to accept the chakra with a vow to give him power. That means..." He swallowed, "Ino probably saw something similar."

Another sob and Sakura mechanically began rubbing Ino's arms as she processed what Shikamaru just told her. *Horrible dreams*, depressingly she thought, *I bet I know what Sasuke dreamed of.*

She swallowed and pulled Ino up and held her face-to-face with her. She began speaking to her, "Ino! Ino, we are okay. Me, Sakura and Kiba, Shikamaru and Chouji, your dad and your uncles; we are okay. All of us, nothing happened—it's the Chunin Exams. You're okay, it was all just a dream."

Her eyes which were staring into nothing seemed to slowly be coming back. Her blue eyes blinked and she whispered, "Sakura?"

Her voice was scratchy from screaming and crying and Sakura nodded and her lips wobbled, "Yeah, Ino."

Ino blinked drowsily and slowly took in her surroundings. Kiba sitting next to her watching with concern, Akamaru in her lap and everyone else standing around waiting.

The ugly, black, flower-like marks faded slowly until it resided back in the mark at her neck. It settled itself and stilled, no longer active with no more evil chakra coming off of it. Just Ino.

Sakura gulped as Ino went silent, her eyes searched for Kiba's but he only shook his head. Sakura swallowed her dry throat, "Ino, are you okay?"

A long, terrible pause and a mumbled, "No, I'm not."

Sakura closed her eyes and prayed for a moment before saying, "That's okay, we're all here for you."

Nothing for a moment, “Thank you.” It was barely a whisper and Ino seemed to calm in her shaking and fears. Sakura pressed her face into Ino’s long white blonde hair.

Lee and his team did the trade with Shikamaru and Ino and Chouji. They both had the other needed, they completed each other. Kiba had to leave—he and Akamaru needed to find his team and he already had their scent ready to go. She hugged him tightly and thanked him as much as possible. He did the same with Ino and even gave her a forehead kiss. He thanked Lee for his help and complimented him. He left without saying much to anyone else (Probably because he's annoyed they never came for him).

Now she and Naruto and Sasuke needed one scroll, just one for them in three days.

Chapter End Notes

We are basically gonna skip to the tournament after this.
I am tired of forests shenanigans
reuniting is for the best

Sakura Twenty-Two

Chapter Notes

G A S P

Im alive and posting?!?!
wild.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Sakura tossed the scroll in her hand up and down.

It was unsurprisingly easy to get when you had two whole other teams helping you out. Tenten had an interesting idea to trap the main path to the center. They could just catch and steal from whoever fell into the trap, and then immediately rush into the safety of the next stage.

It worked so well they now had multiple different scrolls. To which Naruto suggested...

“We should hide them all around here!” Naruto exclaimed, throwing his fist into the air.

Chouji and Lee blinked and opened their mouths as if to complain but Tenten spoke up, “It would be a good way to use these scrolls without screwing anyone over.” She nodded to herself.

Lee gasped, scandalized.

Shikamaru, who was resting his head nearby, seemed to agree, “We can leave little notes telling people where they are.”

Sakura half-smiled and rubbed at her eyes. Her other hand was wrapped around Ino who was leaning into her shoulder, “It would be the only fair thing to do.”

Sasuke spoke up from his spot in the trees, “We should just take it with us or throw them out.”

Neji who was doing lookout said, “I reluctantly agree with the Uchiha, if we got rid of the scrolls less people will be able to pass—meaning less competition and a higher chance for us to get to the finale.”

“So are we officially both of your allies,” Shikamaru murmured into the air.

Tenten looked down at him and smiled, “As long as you continue to agree with me, sure.”

He snorted and said louder, “Let's take a vote.”

Naruto sprung up, "Yeah! Let's vote!"

Sasuke rolled his eyes, "Idiot, you only want us to vote because you know the majority."

Naruto grinned cheekily.

"Lee," Neji suddenly called, "Vote with me and Sasuke. It will give you a better chance at becoming chunin."

Lee paused and looked almost pained as he said, "It is not the right thing to do."

Tenten huffed and said, "All in favor of leaving the scrolls for people?"

Naruto threw his hand up, Tenten and Shikamaru followed. Sakura bit her lip and also lifted her arm with a groan.

Nobody else lifted their arms.

"Okay, four." Tenten counted, "In favor of getting rid of the scrolls?"

Sasuke and Neji raised their hands. It looked like nobody else would when extremely reluctantly Lee put his hand up.

Tenten gaped at him, "Lee! How could you!? You're like one of the most honorable people I know!"

He looked very guilty as he explained, "I know, Tenten, but I do not know if now the best situation is to be so. It is a much more peaceful solution than just battling others."

Tenten instead spun around and glared at Neji, "This is your fault for putting that in his head."

Neji sneered lightly, "I did nothing, just pointed out why I think it's a bad idea."

Tenten opened her mouth, but Shikamaru interrupted her, "Leave it, we still out vote them."

She froze and growled and turned away. Sasuke huffed, "Not everyone voted."

Everyone's eyes went to Chouji and Ino. Chouji sighed and looked over at Shikamaru, who said nothing and only stared back.

"I vote to get rid of the scrolls."

Sakura blinked down at Ino who had announced her vote. Ino was blinking tiredly but her hand was in the air.

She pursed her lips, "I don't want anyone getting in because of our work. We won them fair and square, and we don't have to give them to anyone."

There was a long silence with Sasuke nodding satisfied and Neji staring intently at Chouji.

“Well,” Shikamaru clicked his tongue, “Chouji?”

Another silence intercut with Naruto randomly trying to speak up while everyone would shush him.

Chouji sighed and glanced at Shika before saying, “Lets hide them.”

Naruto and Tenten broke into cheers along with her glaring at her teammates. Ino sighed against her and leaned even further into her. Sakura tucked her in closer; while appreciating the warmth her friend gave off.

Lee sighed but exhaustedly smiled anyway.

Neji inhaled sharply, “Fine, we leave them for others.”

Sasuke also seemed annoyed but rolled his eyes.

It was easy to hide everything with a Hyūga on the team. He would find random places and shove them in. Shikamaru took the time to write little notes telling people that there were hidden scrolls in the area for anyone who finds them.

Now, they all have the scroll they needed.

Sakura caught the scroll before it fell with an exhale. She stared up at the massive building, it was towering and old. *At least a hundred*, she thought to herself.

Behind her she could hear Tenten arguing with Naruto about something. Shikamaru was, interesting enough, whispering with Sasuke with Neji clearly listening in. Chouji and Ino were talking simply about plants, something they both enjoyed.

Sakura spun around, “So how are we going in? Do we want others to know we all teamed up or should we go in separately?”

“Separately,” Neji and Shikamaru said simultaneously.

Everyone seemed to agree but Naruto, who whined that they should all go together. She simply grabbed him by the arm and pulled him along to a different entrance. As they walked up to an alternate entrance, she finally turned to Sasuke.

“Are you okay?”

He grunted, “What?”

“Your neck? What Orochimaru did to you?” She asked, her hand unconsciously coming to her own neck.

“What happened?” Naruto exclaimed, leaning in close to see what they were doing.

“He got bit—”

“Nothing.” Sasuke grunted.

Her foot stuttered and she stumbled a little, “W-What? What do you mean nothing?!”

He glared fiercely at her, “Nothing, nothing happened. Besides this idiot getting knocked out because...” He turned to Naruto, “What are you?”

Naruto stared at him blankly, “W-What?”

Her fist clenched slightly, “Sasuke, not the time—I need to know if you are—”

“Me?” He scoffed, “We should know what's going on with Naruto, since there's something he's not telling us.”

“No, Naruto can tell us later,” She held her finger up to his pale face, “But you...you almost died! And we don't know what Orochimaru did to you, you tried to...torture someone—and you took pleasure in it! I saw it,” She was breathing heavily, standing in front of the entrance, “Right now, I trust Naruto more than you.”

Naruto was looking between them frantically, “Sasuke...what happened?”

A long silence with Sasuke looking angrier than she's ever seen him, while she held the scroll and waited. Eventually he spoke quietly.

“When Orochimaru bit me, I felt pain and I saw...me, but weak—like I was when we fought Haku and Zabuza. But I was offered power, strength and I couldn't get rid of it. And when I woke up...I've never felt more *powerful* .”

Her green eyes caught his black ones and he swallowed, “And when I saw everyone, I was angry but now...I knew I could do something about it.”

Her eyes stared into the dark, green forest, “That wasn't strength, it was...awful. That power was as bad as Orochimaru, it was... *hate* .”

He turned away and she continued, “I mean, you saw what it did to Ino. That was horrible, and just because you handled it better doesn't mean it's better.”

Naruto had been quiet the whole time but finally spoke up to say, “I will tell you what's happening with me after the chunin exams.” He sounded shaky and nervous. She couldn't help but smile at him.

He hesitantly smiled back but turned back to Sasuke, “Sasuke...we'll find out what Orochimaru did to you. And you can be just as strong without that mark, we will make sure of it!”

A little bit of tension faded out of Sasuke's shoulders, but he still shook, “Let's go in. We need medics.”

Sasuke walked past them into the building. Sakura's lips parted and she turned to Naruto, who looked startled and nervous at her intense gaze.

“You are still my teammate,” She told him sternly, “You're still one of my closest friends. No matter what. Same with Sasuke.”

He stared at her and all that came out was a very quiet, “Thanks, Sakura.”

She nodded and gestured him in front of her.

They walked straight into the large doors with them slamming shut behind her causing her to flinch. It had towering walls and massive open spaces.

She followed after her teammates as they observed the words on the wall.

The answer to the little riddle was obvious to her as she stared at it.

“We need to open the scrolls.”

Both of her teammates swung around to argue with her, but she had already unraveled the scroll she was holding.

A low sizzle came from it, and she looked up at their horrified faces, “Open the other one, that's how they will tell if we got both of them.”

Sasuke hissed at her, “Are you crazy? They said immediate disqualification if we opened it!”

She rolled her eyes, “It's the answer! We have to open the Earth and Heaven scrolls.”

Their arguing was never quiet, and they tend to ignore everyone around them when they get into it, especially if it gets physical.

That's probably why they didn't notice when Naruto decided to open the other scroll.

A large cloud of smoke filled the room and froze Sakura and Sasuke in their tracks.

Iruka-sensei, their schoolteacher, stood staring at them, slightly dumbfounded. She blushed slightly but Naruto jumped up and cheered seeing their old teacher.

Turns out he was there to tell them some cryptic news about the meaning of the scrolls they were given (And he wanted to see them, but she thinks he mostly wanted to see Naruto).

But she was right, they were supposed to go in. They were apparently the fifth team in, more than likely after their classmates made it first.

She silently wondered who all in the building was, waiting.

so i got a brand new computer, which is why you will probably see words spelt differently and better grammar lol
thanks for everything you all have said, its really helped keep my interest in the story.
i still love it! but i get caught up in other stories and suddenly i haven't updated this story in months...
either way, idk if i will get more consistent but i still have lots of love for this story.

Technoblade Sixteen

Chapter Notes

BOO

Did I scare you? Been so long I might have been dead!

Either way, I recently found my inspiration again! I hope to write more but clearly, no promises.

Enjoy this chapter with the man, the myth, the legend-the Blade.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

His head pounded as he came to consciousness. He could feel the weakness in his entire body, aching and burning. A bright light shined close to his eyes. He desperately wanted someone to move it. A groan unwillingly fell from his lips.

A quiet amount of movement followed, and a voice said, "I'll go get you sensei."

He exhaustedly peeled his eyes open and immediately closed them at the light and a laugh followed. He tensed and then winced at the movement.

Blinking the dots out of his eyes, he spoke gravelly, "Who's it?"

A cruel laugh and a huff, "You don't recognize me? After all that time you spent with me?"

His eyes blurry caught a figure sitting in a chair, they were grey with dark clothing and...

"Shisui," He choked.

"Yeah," He said coldly, "Me, I'm now here. Funny, isn't it? I'm here, and you're here. I'm sure this is because of nothing you did."

He heard his voice but all he could do was search the room.

"He's not here," Shisui would have rolled his eyes if he had any, "Your friend left after he pulled you back to the middle. Said he couldn't stay."

His eyes stung, but not from tears, "Th-then why are you here?"

"I don't know, *Techno*," He sneered, "I do think, however, that you had something to do with me being here—against my will."

"Can you leave?" Techno croaked.

Shisui shrugged half-heartedly, “Partially, I can vanish from your eyes but now...I am always here.”

Techno winced as he shifted, “You already tested it out?”

“Yeah,” He blew hair out of his face, “Tried to get one of the doctors to look at me but they looked right through me.”

“Well can you get out of here?” He groaned as he laid his head back, “You're ruining the landscape.”

It was silent for a second and Techno wondered if the ghost left, but a moment later Shisui appeared over him. The dark-haired boy was doing a great job at glaring at him with no eyes.

“This is your fault,” He said harshly, “Fix it.”

Techno blinked up at him, “What makes you think I have any idea how to get you out of here? You want me to say, *‘Oh Spirit begone for this world! For it is not for you! Go and follow the light!’* I don't know what I did, and I don't know how to get you away.”

Shisui exhaled angrily and opened his mouth to speak but paused and looked up, “Someone's coming.”

And then he vanished into smoke.

Techno coughed and groaned to himself.

But then he froze.

Chat? He thought to himself.

...

Silence.

He swallowed harshly and blinked quickly.

Chat?!

...

Absolutely nothing.

He licked his lips, “Chat?”

“Ren?”

He startled and let out a string of coughs as someone came over and adjusted his pillows. They fluffed them up as his coughs slowed and a woman stood over him.

He took in the lady with red eyes, “I'm going to get your sensei.”

The dark-haired woman sighed and turned back around and left the room again and he furrowed his brow, *which sensei?*

His query was immediately answered as the door swung open and Gai-sensei stood with wide eyes and a tense stance.

The second they made eye contact his teacher burst into tears.

Techno panicked instantly as Gai walked closer and pulled him into the world's tightest hug. His entire body protested as he was aggressively cuddled.

“Oh Ren! My precious student! How could I ever leave you!? I should have stayed with you! Oh I will never forgive myself! I will work ten times harder to redeem myself in your eyes!” His sensei cried a stream of tears and he spoke quickly into his hair.

Techno painfully patted his teacher's arm, “I forgive you, just let me go.”

His teacher jumped away from him and stared at him with wet eyes, “Oh my youthful student, I am so sorry for abandoning you! I should have been there when you were attacked! Your heart almost stopped!”

“My heart...” Techno murmured as he laid his hand over his chest, but then he heard the rest of the statement, “Wait, attacked—?”

“Yes,” A cool, calm voice said next to him. Techno suppressed a jump and turned to see Kakashi standing next to Gai. Kakashi raised a silver brow, “We found you tied up while heavily injured—although the injuries mostly seemed to be internal. Very strange.”

Kakashi's keen eye caught Techno's and a slight shiver overtook him as the dark, intelligent eye stared him down.

He knows, Chat, he thought frantically to himself but to no answer.

Gai turned to Kakashi looking deeply hurt, “How could we let this happen, Kakashi?! We were so focused on our sweet youthful genin that we completely neglected our boy!”

His teacher was openly weeping as Kakashi also awkwardly patted him consolingly. Techno exhausted fell back into his bed exhausted.

“Oh Gai, I believe your team is about to pass.” Kakashi suddenly said as he backed away from his fellow jounin. “You ought to go speak to them when they open their scrolls.”

Gai-sensei backed up unsure, but Kakashi waved him away, “I will watch over him and if not, he is surrounded by ninja. No one besides other jounin is getting in here.”

Gai tethered before nodding and putting his hand in Techno's messy pink hair, “I will be back, Ren.”

He disappeared into the hall.

The awkward silence that followed was thick and Techno suddenly said, “This isn't the hospital.”

Kakashi stared at him and then spoke, “You needed a medic, and they are here. Waiting for injured genin. Now all the jounin are here with the third stage about to start, and now you are also here.”

His sensei was clearly a *little* angry.

Techno swallowed thickly, “Why did you come—”

“What did you do to yourself?” Kakashi interrupted him with a dark tone.

Play dumb, “What do you mean? Gai-sensei says I was attacked—”

“Because I told him you were,” Kakashi leaned backwards, “Because I found you a few days ago. Tied up and injured. But it was clearly self-inflicted although I'm not sure how you injured your organs. My guess was this clearly had something to do with whatever you are hiding.”

Techno twitched, “I don't know—”

“*Don't.*” His voice was harsh, “Don't lie to me. I have ignored whatever it is, but you almost *died*. I know something and you will tell me what it is and why I have lied for you.”

Techno's whole body flinched, and he suppressed a gasp. The silence in his head was deafening and he felt almost desperate for Chat to come back. For even Shisui to appear.

“Ren, this is not negotiable, you have to tell me,” Kakashi's hand laid on the bed and stared at him imploringly.

“He's right you know,” Shisui suddenly appeared from behind Kakashi, “he lied for you and Kakashi-senpai is pretty trustworthy. But he won't trust you anymore if you don't tell him.”

Techno cast a quick glare, but Kakashi spun around to see what he looked at and when he saw nothing he turned to stare at Techno, “Just like that, or talking to yourself. What is it?”

Techno looked down at the scratchy white blanket pulled over him. He took back his desire to have Shisui here. It felt strange to have to say this after keeping it a secret and only telling Sakura. Especially with everyone knowing in his past life. He's never had to just say it out loud.

“I have voices in my head.” He bluntly stated and then winced. Not the correct way to say that.

Kakashi blinked at him and then hummed, “Alright—”

“No, not like that, I didn't mean it like that—they are...the dead. I hear the dead. They speak to me and I call them Chat.” He flushed as he stuttered over himself to explain his sanity.

Kakashi didn't move for a second and then said, "You hear the dead?"

Techno gulped, "Yep, yes, that's me. I hear the dead." A long silence and Techno cleared his throat, "So, you believe me?"

Kakashi crouched next to the bed and inhaled. Then he exhaled and stood and turned around as if to walk out of the room.

Techno shot up in bed and his entire chest burned in pain, but he ignored it and hastily said, "Shisui Uchiha calls you Kakashi-senpai."

Kakashi froze.

"He died with no eyes. He...was on a team with you. A-A-And his cousins are Sasuke Uchiha...and Itachi Uchiha." He stuttered and explained as his chest flared in pain and his voice broke.

Kakashi slowly turned back around and stared dead at him. He could also see Shisui's amused face.

After Kakashi said nothing, Techno pulled out the big guns, "Naruto is the son of—"

A hand covered his mouth in a second and Kakashi appeared over him with a blazing eye, "Quiet. Don't say anything."

Techno grimaced from behind the hand but kept silent all the while Shisui began laughing in the background.

Kakashi spoke softly, "I believe you, but be aware we are not alone. Not here, the Leaf jounin are not the only ninja here."

Techno silently breathed a sigh of relief.

Kakashi gazed at him with curiosity and perhaps a little bit of fear. He pulled back slowly and asked, "What do you keep looking at then?"

He said dryly, "A menace."

It was silent beside Shisui's loud indignation. Kakashi then quietly declared, "Shisui."

Shisui stopped and said, "Did he...Kakashi-senpai?"

"It's him, isn't it?" Kakashi's grey eye crinkled up as if he was smiling but the sadness was the same there, "You see the *'menace'* Shisui."

Techno's jaw dropped, "How did you...?"

Kakashi seemed fondly pained as he said, "He was always a menace. While alive he got into tons of trouble."

Techno's eyes dragged over to see Shisui hanging his head with his hair covering his face. He was clearly saddened at the fact that Kakashi knew he was there.

Techno chest throbbed with pain as he explained, "He's the only one I can see. And I can't talk to anyone, just anyone who wants to talk. Normally it's just random people, and sometimes they know the future or specific events of the past. I can't see them except for Shisui, but even then, it's temporary. I was trying to talk to certain people when you found me. I knew it was dangerous, but I had to try and this...is the result." He finished rambling with a dry throat.

Kakashi kindly handed him a cup of water sitting by his bedside.

He then asked, "How much do you know?"

Techno gulped down the drink and said, "Not too much, but I am good at hiding it."

"Not lying," Kakashi hummed.

Techno blinked, "I am great at lying."

He could feel both guys staring at him.

"I can feel your judgement from both of you." He mumbled and took another sip.

Kakashi breathed and said, "As far as anyone knows, you were attacked by Orochimaru."

Techno, intelligently, asked him, "Heh?"

"Orochimaru was nearby," Kakashi told him, "And no one knows why you were tied up, but you being the student of me and Gai is good enough for most people."

"Most people?" He slurred lightly as he blinked exhaustedly.

"The other jounin, like Gai." Kakashi strangely tucked the blanket closer to him, "Shikaku of course wasn't fooled but I assured I would take care of it. The Hokage is ignoring the situation entirely. He's a little preoccupied with the actual Orochimaru situation."

His red, dark eyes fluttered slowly, and he murmured, "What situation?"

A hand went through his knotted hair, and Kakashi quietly said, "I'll tell you when you awake."

Is it Sakura? Was the last thing he thought before fading into oblivion.

If I wanted to put fun, cute outtakes should I make a whole other story with one shots or put them in this story, but like at the end? Cause they might have some with plot but not spoiler heavy? Idk, I got some fun ones ready.

Sakura Twenty-Three

Chapter Notes

major writers block.

this story is going to keep suffering im afraid. I will try to work, but I am really having issues. I might end this story and do like summaries until Shippuden and sadly not do Shippuden, that would take so much time and I would have to rewrite way too much.

This story will never be abandoned, i have put too much love into it, but it wont be fast.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

The massive chambers were empty as her feet stumbled out of the doors. Being shoved into bed and told to sleep until you feel better was simultaneously great and mind numbingly boring. Her arms and shoulders were healed but she had been heavily scolded for hurting her arms again.

“A shinobi’s greatest asset is their arms, don’t destroy yours.”

She wanted to snarl at them like an animal for that, as if it was her fault. She had simply tiredly blinked at them. She was even less conscious of the others getting healed and treated in the room. Sasuke had been all but hidden away while Naruto bounced back in hours. She doesn't even know where Ino went, as she was also taken away with Sasuke but unlike Sasuke, she was barely coherent. She briefly saw Kiba, and his team come in to visit, but they only saw Shikamaru who was getting discharged. She had glimpsed them through the paper walls before blacking out from exhaustion again.

The most welcome sight was when she opened her green eyes to her teachers. Kakashi-sensei was standing next to her bed, waiting and watching. She had almost immediately burst into tears with the amount of relief that flooded her system. He looked panicked for a moment before simply setting his hand on her hand and petting her like his dogs. It had comforted her to an embarrassing amount. He also told her that when she was up that he had something to tell her. Something important but nothing to worry about.

She had nodded and her eyes had watered but she closed them when he left.

Her dreams were haunted with snakes and dead friends. She could see her brother screaming and attacking at vines that constrained him and her teacher unmoving and unresponsive as he stared with both eyes into nothing. She had woken in a cold, aching sweat that made her cough. Her shivering body blurrily looked around the white, grey room and she saw a flash of red in the window before sleep overtook her.

Pink hair swung around her face as she walked towards the communal area. She had been dismissed with little to no problems. But chakra exhaustion could barely be solved in a week

let alone a night or two. Her body simply ached, and her mind spun.

An arm grabbed hers and she was yanked into a room. Her brain went into reaction only and her fist swung for their face without registering anything else. They dove backwards and they quickly put their hands up and called to her.

“Woah! Sakura, I'm sorry! Calm down!” Kiba’s voice echoed in the room and his lightly clawed hands were in front of her face. She blinked quickly and she realized she was holding her breath, and her heart was beating so loudly her head felt like it was going to pop.

She let out a ragged breath and kind of hissed at him, “Kiba? What are you doing?”

Akamaru whined from atop his head and burrowed his face in his little paws. Kiba sighed and scratched the back of his head, “I kind of wanted to talk with you. In private and I didn't think you'd want to.”

She glared at him but felt a small string of guilt crept up, “I would have. I'm not—angry with you.” Her voice caught as her mind went back to him holding her back in the forest.

His face was unamused, “Uh huh, so you're not mad?”

Her pale face twitched, and she sighed, “No—not that mad. I'm just...frustrated.”

“I know,” His face was sympathetic as he spoke and Akamaru barked his agreement, “But I had too, it was either you or Sasuke and after what happened to...Ino,” His face scrunched and she felt awful, “I'm not sorry I held you back, but I am sorry what happened to Sasuke.”

She swallowed heavily, “I'm not angry, not anymore, I just wish I could have done anything. And...I'm sorry I was cruel I-I just wasn't thinking—you were upset about Ino, but I didn't even think of you only how I felt—”

She was pulled into a tight hug, and she inhaled deeply. It was silent but she could feel Akamaru nosing at her head. It was nice to just be hugged by her childhood best friend.

Pulling away, she smiled at his boyish face. He grinned with all his sharp teeth back. She nodded to him and went to the door.

“Wait, wait, wait,” He quickly said, “I also had stuff to tell you.”

She paused, “What? Is it about the teams? I thought you would just tell Naruto?”

He rolled his eyes, “That guys an idiot—and it's not just team stuff.”

“What?” She asked curiously.

He looked around the room suspiciously and sniffed and then nodded, “Nothing, okay—first, somethings wrong with that sand team. When I met up with Hinata and Shino—they already had a scroll—they were waiting near the entrance, waiting for me so we could go in, when we found the sand team. They were fighting another team. But it wasn't actually a fight—it

was a *slaughter* . And just from one of them, the little red one with the gourd on his back. He eviscerated them, turned them into sludge.”

He actually shivered and she stared open mouthed, but shook her head, “I-I get that but after Orochimaru and what happened with Naruto—”

Wind whistled between his teeth as he growled, “That's the thing it was just like that! Like a combination of that! That bloodlust...” He shook his head with a faraway look and Akamaru whined loudly, “It was so dark and heavy, it was like Orochimaru’s but with this bad chakra smell. Like Naruto!”

She thought back to everything that happened and tried to think of all that was said. The only thing about Naruto was...”What did he mean that Naruto was the ‘Nine-Tails’ and ‘jinchuuriki?’”

He blinked and shrugged, “Like the Tailed Beasts? I don't know—but somethings going on with that sand kid!” Akamaru let out a bark of agreement.

Her head fell to her chest, and she sighed, “Okay, I'll have to do some research.”

Kiba cocked his head and hummed, “Yeah, you should also ask to use Shikamaru’s library—the Nara’s apparently have a good one.”

Sakura hadn't even thought of that, “Oh yeah, alright, I'll do that.”

He nodded and said, “Oh and something else.”

“Yeah?”

His hand fiddled with the strings on his jacket, “Uh, your brother is nearby.”

Her large eyes blinked, “What?”

Kiba clicked his tongue, “Your brother is nearby, probably in the building. He also smells sick.”

...

“*WHAT?*”

His hands flew up to his ears and covered them, while Akamaru attempted to burrow into his owner's brown curly hair. Sakura stood there gaping as steam seemed to come out of her ears. She furiously turned around and stormed out of the room.

Sakura almost didn't know why she was so angry. Maybe it was because of what happened in the forest, how so many of her most precious people almost died and somehow her brother—her most precious of her people—was injured. Something that sounded inconsequential to anyone else, but her brother didn't get hurt. The last time he was in the hospital he almost died and his whole life changed—she doesn't remember it that well, but her parents sure do. To be in the hospital for him means he almost died, and she was *furious* .

The exhaustion that hung over her like a veil was lifted and instead anger overtook her vision. It was like her brain had locked onto her target and suddenly she was checking every room she passed.

A bundle of leaves appeared in front of her, and she stopped and waited.

Kakashi-sensei stood, seemingly reading his book, and she crossed her arms. He glanced up, “I see your feeling well—”

“Where is Ren?” Her teeth were clenched.

He sighed and relaxed from his tense position, “Just so you know this is what I was trying to tell you, before you came to any conclusions.”

Without saying anything he put his hand on her arm and directed her around the building. Neither spoke as they walked. She felt like she was walking to the gallows or to identify a body.

Eventually, they reached an innocuous door. Her Sensei pushed it open, and she walked in to see her brother casually sitting on a bed.

His skin was pale and unhealthy with unwashed hair up in a terribly done bun. He looked like he hadn't slept while also sleeping for days. He was the best thing she's ever seen.

They both kind of just stared at each other without moving. Like two unsettled cats.

He finally broke the silence to say, “So what happened to you?”

Chapter End Notes

All the next chaps are basically going to be summaries of the fights. Probably all in one chapter to make it easier on me.

Kakashi Eleven

Chapter Notes

Today we feast brothers!

Enjoy this chapter before chaos. Also, Orochimaru has lotta thoughts on what's going on---hes plotting, also Akatsuki is what he is alluding to, because I always thought it was weird he never brought them up.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

“...But I'm afraid we are going to have to have a preliminary exam before the actual one.”

Immediate complaints from all genin rose. Kakashi mused from the ledge overlooking the small arena of the raggedness from everyone. His team looked terrible, Sasuke was hiding his pain well, but his shoulder kept twitching. Sakura had a blank look, strange for his most studious student, and she was clearly still in pain from her back getting hurt. Naruto's clothes were ruined but otherwise he seemed perfectly fine. Kakashi wondered if he had noticed something wrong with his chakra yet, his Uzumaki was extremely dense.

Hayate held his hands up and his tired eyes rolled, “There are simply too many of you—the first two tasks seemed to have been too easy, so we will have to eliminate some of the weaker characters still here.”

The kids glanced between each other as if doubting their authenticity and wondering who was holding the third round behind, as if it were their fault.

“For a village so focused on teamwork we sure know how to turn them against each other,” Asuma mumbled between a cigarette next to him. Asuma exhaled smoke and leaned over the railing next to him, to which he whispered to him, “Your Uchiha is looking a little rough.”

Kakashi with his head in his hand simply said, “Your Yamanaka is barely standing.”

Asuma's eyes looked grim as he took another hit and grunted a non-reply.

“Thus, we will begin shortly—”

“Now?!”

“But we just—”

“What a drag...”

Hayate coughed loudly bringing their attention back, “If you do not think you can continue and don't wish to participate, you can drop out. As these will be simple single knockout rounds between one person per team, thus your teams no longer matter.”

It, however, was already decided, Kakashi was pulling Sasuke now, for his own good. As he reappeared on the ground next to his team another boy with grey hair and purple clothes pulled himself from his team with a good-natured shrug and well wishes.

Hayate met his eye, “Anyone else?”

Kakashi saw Naruto cross his arms and loudly exclaim that, *‘he would never give up! Believe it, blah, blah, blah.’*

He put his arm on Sasuke’s shoulder heavily and the boy whipped around to look at him. Kakashi had yet to speak but Sasuke seemed to know what he was going to say, and his eyes grew furious, “Kakashi—”

“I am pulling my student,” Kakashi announced to the Hokage and the other officials. He watched the Hokage stare intensely at them but then their agreement from before must’ve reminded him because he broke eye contact and nodded gravely. He turned back around and they

Hayate nodded at him and waved his hand, “Sasuke Uchiha is no longer participating. Anyone else?”

Sasuke was fighting vehemently under his hand, but Kakashi tightened his grip and forced to walk back. He ignored Naruto’s betrayed gaze and Sakura’s understanding pursed lips. He could see Asuma arguing frantically with his father and the others, no doubt about Ino.

Sasuke buckled as they turned a corner and finally forced his hand off. He turned around with a furious red glare on Kakashi’s casual one.

“What the hell, Kakashi?! Why did you pull me? I could have fought! How could you—”

Kakashi honestly said, “Because I didn't want you to.”

The Sharingan spun quickly in his fury, “You had no right to make that decision!”

Kakashi felt a cold amusement rise up, “Oh? I, your sensei, had no right to pull my student who is being affected by a Cursed Mark from Orochimaru from a fight? I had no right to stop you?”

Sasuke could sense he miscalculated and shifted back slightly, “I would have been fine, I can handle it—”

“No.” He stated coldly, “I don't care, you were not going to fight. Not for something you can do in six months, or something as meaningless as a promotion.”

Sasuke’s Sharingan dilated from memorizing his words, and Sasuke swallowed heavily, “It's my chakra, as long as I didn't use my chakra—”

“And what? Fight purely taijutsu? That might work against one or two of these opponents but one fighter who is a little too good for your basic taijutsu and you are using the Cursed Mark.” Kakashi exhaled his anger and said seriously, “It doesn't matter, Sasuke, it's not worth it. Your life isn't worth a promotion, you can have another time...nor proving a point to someone that isn't here.”

Sasuke's body was tense, and he stared in shock at Kakashi, but Kakashi laid his hand on his little student's hair, “So turn off your Sharingan before you trigger it and let's seal it.”

The red faded from his most traumatized student's eyes, and he sagged in exhaustion and quietly said, “Fine, quickly—I wanna see the other fights.”

Kakashi eye-smiled at him, “As fast as I possibly can.”

The fastest way was getting help from someone else and luckily there was someone who he was mildly annoyed at and who would be useful. Thus, as Kakashi was beginning to draw out all the seals that would be needed, Ren stumbled into the room looking slightly better after talking with Sakura. His bare feet tripped into the room, and he froze, staring at Sasuke who took off his shirt for the sealing and Kakashi who was painting on the floor.

Ren blinked between them and slowly asked, “What is happening?”

In all his time knowing Ren he's never heard him have to ask what is going on and Kakashi almost laughed in his face when he told him, “You are helping me seal Sasuke's little bite mark, so it doesn't overtake him.”

Sasuke complained, “What is he doing here? I thought it would just be you—”

“Aw, Sasuke,” Kakashi chuckled, “I didn't know you were so comfortable with me—”

The tension that was in Sasuke's shoulders at Ren's arrival dissipated at Kakashi's comment and he decided to answer him, “The fastest way to get it sealed is using multiple people—it will be faster, and the seal will be stronger and better at suppressing the Cursed Mark.”

Ren hesitated before shuffling over to help create the seal and asked, “Do I just duplicate your side all the way around?”

Kakashi nodded, “Yes—Sasuke, come here. Sit in the middle.”

Sasuke slowly made his way over, shivering without a shirt and sat down in the center. Kakashi squatted next to him and in a low voice told him, “This is going across your front and back and will be cold. Don't move and tell me if you need to pause—it will be fast.”

He waited as Sasuke looked at him and then slowly nodded his approval. The moment he touched his skin with the brush Sasuke hissed between clenched teeth. Kakashi laid other hand on his bare shoulder in sympathy and Sasuke silently leaned closer.

They were finished in ten minutes flat. Kakashi backed up and nodded to Ren, who now stood awkwardly to the side and who gave him the saddest thumbs up Kakashi has ever seen. Sasuke was silently shivering and staring at the ground.

Kakashi wordlessly called chakra to his hand and sat it over the Cursed Mark. Kakashi could feel the heat under the skin writhing like a parasite. He swallowed and called, “Curse Sealing!”

A bright flash of light and a scream was pulled from Sasuke’s throat. The sealing moved smoothly along the floor and up onto Sasuke skin. It swirled around its target and a flash of heat and Kakashi pulled his hand away. The barrier around the Mark sizzled into his student's skin and Sasuke collapsed onto his hands, breathing heavily. Kakashi stumbled back closer to the wall.

Ren crept closer and tightly snatched his arm and hissed at him, “He's here— *that snake* — Orochimaru. He's watching.”

A slimy, cruel, mocking laugh echoed in the black chambers and in an instant Kakashi had pushed both of his students behind him and had a knife in his hand, “My, my, what a phenomenal sensor you have, Kakashi, but of course, he's not actually a sensor is he?”

Kakashi felt Ren swipe a knife out of his pouch, “What are you doing here, Orochimaru?”

A sly, snake eye peeked behind a wall, “You have something of mine.”

He narrowed his eye at the Sannin, “You have nothing here— *leave* .”

“Nothing?” Orochimaru stepped fully out of the darkness. Kakashi narrowed his eye on his outfit, dressed in a sound jonin outfit, he had been clearly hiding among the others watching the Chunin Exams. Ren silently leaned down and pulled Sasuke further behind both of them, making sure he was protected.

“Have I ruined your show?” Kakashi mocked, hand completely still around his knife, “That's what you wanted, right? To see Sasuke fight and use the Cursed Mark?”

“Always the little genius, aren't you? Always putting it all together,” Orochimaru mused to himself, laughing at his own thoughts, “But I did want a little...demonstration.”

Kakashi could feel the blood lust in the air pushing on them and he grit his teeth, “You won't be getting one—leave, you have no business here. The Hokage already knows you are here. His mark is already sealed—you have nothing here.”

The slitted eyes of the legendary warrior slid over to his pink haired student—Kakashi’s hand lit up at the interested gleam. His Chidori sparked and ignited the room in flashing blue lights. Kakashi snarled beneath his mask, “If you don’t leave—you will not leave Konoha alive.”

Orochimaru paused and cocked his head, “Willing to die for your students? How noble of you.” Neither said anything and Kakashi could feel the adrenaline rushing through his veins.

“Don't worry,” Orochimaru finally spoke, “You will not...see me again. Not for a while.” Kakashi refuses to move as Orochimaru makes eye contact with him, “But Kakashi?”

He could hear quiet scuffling behind him, and he could imagine Sasuke attempting to stand and Ren clumsily stopping him. But Kakashi said nothing to Orochimaru who smirked at his silence.

“You cannot protect all of them. None of you can; when they are no longer blind, they will want more, they will desire more than any of you can give. They will *need* more. I will take any who come running.”

Orochimaru’s words sunk in instantly, any of them—Ino, Sasuke, Ren and any others who want power or knowledge, will be offered it by him. For a price more than likely but—

“What do you know?” Kakashi called between clenched teeth as the Chidori sputtered out.

Orochimaru stopped from where he was walking away and turned his head to look at him with a smirk, “Are you willing to follow?”

Kakashi glowered, “What's coming that makes you think we will be desperate enough to come to you?”

“You will find out,” He taunted and then he disappeared into the darkness.

Kakashi stood stiffly when Ren tugged on his arm. He spoke gruffly, “Kakashi—He's gone. He vanished.”

The silver haired man relaxed and spun around to look at his students. Sasuke was standing grappling onto Ren while he offhandedly attempted to shove him off. Sasuke’s eyes were glowing with the Sharingan as he memorized everything Orochimaru just said. Ren looked worse, sweaty and pale.

Kakashi clenched his hand tightly, “Let's go watch the rest of the matches.”

Chapter End Notes

next is the not very important matches. The really important ones will be on one-page sperate from the others.

Sakura Twenty-Four

Chapter Notes

You see that right! I posted a new chapter!
Enjoy basically a summarized series of events.

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

The first match was a good omen, in Sakura's opinion.

Tenten versus an older, purple wearing, cocky leaf-nin. Seeing Tenten in action was cool—her weapon showcase was interesting. The man was stretchy, apparently using his chakra to make his body like stretchy rubber. However, Tenten turned out to be a great matchup for him, specifically due to the number of knives she had on her person. She was wily, constantly getting out of his constrictive hold and stabbing him. Then rinse and repeat.

The match was a long one, but with him constantly using chakra to try and grab her and her only using weapons and never breaking a sweat. The marathon of a match ended with Tenten victorious over the exhausted leaf-nin.

Sakura was not surprised Tenten won in the long run, she trained with Ren, who was the master of endurance.

She *was* surprised when at the end of that match Sasuke, Kakashi *and* Ren appeared. She clasped Ren in a hug and pulled Sasuke in. She could see the mark on his neck was different, and she was glad to see it fixed.

"She'd be good in ANBU," Murmured the Hokage to Gai.

Gai huffed, "Tenten is great at whatever she puts her mind to—but I do not think she has ambition for anything higher than jounin."

There was a disapproving wave of whispers from the watchers.

"Tell her she could," Anko grinned, "Sometimes girls just want a little help."

The next match wasn't from anyone in the village and was their first glance at the Sand-nin. The boy in black and with face paint against the Sound-nin girl. The one who used genjutsu against them.

It was not an even fight nor was it a long one. Kankuro, the sand-nin, easily outclassed her. Her genjutsu was strong, but he was too good in every other field—mostly when it came to understanding the assignment, because he never even let her hit him. He seemingly never heard the bells and had her on the ground without even pulling off the thing on his back.

“What is he using?” Shikamaru asked, sounding more interested than she's ever heard.

Kakashi-sensei, who was reading his book, said, “Chakra String, he's outputting chakra into strings he can use to manipulate objects around him.”

“She never had a chance, then,” Shikamaru summarized.

Kakashi never glanced away, “So it seems.”

“They are too experienced to be genin—why are they not already chunin?” Asuma complained to the others.

“For a good showing.” Other jounin whispered in the back.

Kurenai consolingly rubbed Asuma's shoulder.

The third fight hurt everyone involved.

Ino Yamanaka versus Rock Lee.

For others, they might wonder why she didn't pull out when given the opportunity, but Sakura has been friends with Ino since they were small children. She understood her better than anyone there. So, she knew that Ino was more than likely still in for a few important reasons.

The biggest might just be pettiness.

She is crazy stubborn and refuses to do things by other people's measures. She *would* refuse to step down due to Orochimaru—not because she wants to prove herself, but simply because others think she can't and thus she will.

The other might be politics.

Sakura understood the basics of politics. She was not closely related to anything connected to politics. Except for her team, but Ino was very connected.

Her father was a clan head, and she was his heir. She had responsibilities and she understood those responsibilities. She knew she couldn't appear too weak or immature.

So, she would go out on her own terms. Fighting in the Chunin Exams and being knocked out like everyone else.

But it was no fight.

Lee was clearly taking it easy on her, but even then, he outclassed her in every way. What made it worse was that it was a taijutsu fight—Asuma, Ino's teacher, had banned her from using any jutsu, genjutsu or ninjutsu, which is her main arsenal. So, Ino who would use her subpar taijutsu against Lee who was the best taijutsu user next to his own teacher. Ino tried her best, but Lee beat her in five minutes flat, which was him taking it easy, as he could probably have knocked her out in one hit.

“That was very gentlemanly of Lee,” She murmured to herself sadly.

Naruto scrunched his face, “Wasn't much of a fight.”

Kiba glared at Naruto and Akamaru growled, “She did her best—Lee let her go out like an actual fighter. I bet you would have gone out faster than her!”

They sized each other up but were dragged away by their respected teachers.

Ino disappeared afterwards with Kakashi-sensei nodding to them as he took her out. He told Asuma-sensei to watch over them and keep his team safe. Asuma nodded solemnly and reminded him to do the same.

Ino, exhausted and sickly looking, smiled painfully at them and vanished.

“Poor girl,” Was the only thing murmured in the masses.

The fourth fight was Shikamaru versus the Zaku, one of Orochimaru’s lackeys that attacked them. The one with holes in his hands. She fought him hand to hand, she survived mostly by redirecting his blasts and dodging. Shikamaru luckily already knew his abilities and was well rested, so hopefully he would win.

So it was a surprise when the fight started that Shikamaru not only did not move—he stood there very casually—but began taunting the boy.

He looked almost bored but with a knowing look as he taunted the boy until he ran at him. And then slowly took large steps back, boxing himself in closer and closer into the wall. She could feel the panic from his teacher and the other genin as the boy ran at seemingly low effort.

Shikamaru ended up beating him in a very simple way. Pointing his own weapon at himself. It looked almost easy watching him bait him and redirect his arms at himself. It was clever (and no doubt relieving to his teacher, who looked very worried.)

Shikaku could hear the eager whispers behind him, and he rolled his eyes with a small proud smile.

“Greedy old bastards.”

Shino versus Yoroi.

A fight that was unbalanced from the start.

Yoroi used his hands to absorb and pull in chakra after touching his enemies.

Shino used his bugs to syphon chakra after they landed on his enemies.

Shino won. He was better at dodging and more importantly—he drained his opponent first.

A smug, coy shrug came from Kurenai as she was surrounded by others.

The most unexpected fight however was Naruto versus Hinata.

It was, at first, considered the most unbalanced fight. Hinata has perfect technique but no strength in a fight, versus Naruto who has no technique but all the strength for a fight.

But it was mostly unbalanced cause everyone knew Hinata was soft on Naruto. Like a crush, but even kinder. She would let him win, everyone knew, and he would have no idea.

That, however, didn't happen.

Kakashi-sensei showed back up, nodding to them and telling Asuma that she was sleeping in the infirmary. Shikamaru looked at Chouji who looked upset but nodded. Shikamaru left after that—no doubt to be with Ino while she slept.

The fight began like how everyone thought. Naruto lunged and Hinata half-heartedly defended herself. Kiba ground his teeth together and resisted yelling down at them, but he didn't because he knew Hinata wouldn't want that.

Eventually Hinata got hit in the stomach and fell to the ground with a gasp. There was a long pause as everyone waited to see if she would stand up, but she just continued to lay there. Even after the pain would have subsided.

The proctor raised his hand to call the—kind of pathetic—match when Naruto yelled at him to wait for her.

Naruto was not observant, except when he was. He could see that she was not even trying and was just giving up.

He didn't know why—he's not that observant—but he didn't like that she had let him win. It wasn't fair and he wanted a real fight. So he yelled at her, to fight, to get up and actually fight him.

There was a long pause as the proctor began to speak, but Hinata...held her hand out. She shakily put her hands under her and pushed herself up. Hinata stared at Naruto, eyes impossibly wide, and asked him if he was watching her.

He looked confused, but then nodded aggressively.

“I can see that you're not even trying!”

She looked frozen, before shifting her feet into the classic Hyuga battle position. She held her hand out and spoke again.

“T-Then I will fight. I will not back down.”

A small smile appeared on the small blonde boy's face. Her byakugan activated and Naruto screamed as he launched himself at her.

The fight turned into one of the best fights. It wasn't blood thirsty like the other matches, it was a fight between two people who wanted the other to take them seriously. Without

wanting to kill the other, it was the best fight she's seen.

It ended in the most surprising moment of the tournament (so far).

Hinata jammed her hand into his stomach and then his sternum. Hinata was covered in bruises on her pale, white skin and some skin breaking was occurring. The worst thing on her was her hand, where Naruto had grabbed it and attempted to break it after she hit his shoulder. He did not break it, and Hinata did not react.

But as she hit his body, he froze. It was two of the most important chakra system points. But it was something more for Naruto and Sakura froze thinking of what Orochimaru did to him. He nailed him with his fingers into his stomach.

Orochimaru must have done something bad—because Naruto collapsed backwards holding his stomach like he was going to puke. He went pale and even she could feel his chakra dim.

Immediately, Kakashi-sensei was in the middle, holding up a finger to stop the fight. The crowd was silent.

And then Kiba screamed down, “Way to go, Hinata!”

A splattering of cheering appeared but Sakura grasped the barrier and stared down, worried. Sasuke, who had been basically sleeping against the wall, was standing next to her, looking at their teacher and teammate.

The proctor called the match after a moment, and Hinata collapsed onto her tailbone. She was breathing heavily, no doubt, exhausted after fighting the most stubborn ninja. She was holding her arm and wincing, her body shook, and she looked almost regretful as Naruto was fretted over by his teacher.

Naruto attempted to stand, fighting against Kakashi’s mothering, but his body curled into itself, and he exhaled sharply.

The medics brought out a stretcher and as he was carted away, he spoke to Hinata. Sakura doesn't know what they said to each other, but Hinata looked soothed and followed after him, saying she needed to be treated.

The whispers were enough for everyone. They couldn't believe the fight.

Kurenai had never looked so proud.

But that was only the first half.

So next will be the same, but more in depth. I hope these were okay, as I am not super confident.

Honestly time skip will be heavily used after these fights. We will get small summarize of them training.

Sakura Twenty-Five

Chapter Notes

Behold! the rest of the preliminary

See the end of the chapter for more [notes](#)

Sakura stared in disbelief.

Her versus Chouji.

Chouji, who was just standing with his teacher, was hers to fight.

Sasuke glanced at her out of the corner of his eye. Kakashi-sensei had no problem exclaiming out loud, “Maa, what a bad matchup.”

It wasn't necessarily a ‘*bad matchup*’ but it was a sentimentally bad one. She and Chouji were evenly matched in fighting prowess, and she knew she had the upper hand when it comes to taijutsu. But she knew that she didn’t want to hurt Chouji, and he didn't want to hurt her.

She bit her lip as she walked down to the bottom level. She was going to fight like Lee did, with respect for her opponent. She didn't want to make Chouji feel bad nor did she....

She peeked up at Kakashi-sensei, suddenly nervous. *She was the last on her team* , she realized with a daunting horror, *Sasuke and Kakashi are watching. And Naruto is going to want to know what's happening. I have to win. For my team.*

She was suddenly *very* nervous. She swallowed heavily as Chouji stopped in front of her. He smiled wryly and bowed.

Palms sweaty, she bowed deeply to her friend.

The proctor raised his hand, “Begin.”

They both fell back into their positions and backed away from each other. She could hear the others cheering them both on from the stands.

She swallowed as she ran in for a punch. Her hand hit his shoulder as he jumped away. It would not be a fun, or interesting fight.

Chouji quickly pulled out his human boulder technique, but she knew his skills too well because she easily dodged and attacked him as soon as he used up too much chakra. Her heartbeat with every hit she dealt to him and when he suddenly raised his hand she froze.

“I forfeit,” He coughed.

She froze. *I won. You won. YOU ARE GOING TO THE THIRD STAGE AND HAVE BEAT NARUTO AND SASUKE (mostly Sasuke!)*

Her mind was a little fuzzy.

The happiness of knowing she was going to the final. Beating her teammates—perhaps unfairly, her fight might have been the most biased—her being the only person from her team going ahead, and her just beating a good friend of hers. She feels a little numb.

The proctor coughed, “Chouji Akimichi forfeits. Sakura Haruno wins the match.”

Dumbly, she helped Chouji up and asked him, “Why’d you give up?”

He shrugged, “I didn't want to fight.”

“Always the pacifist, Chouji,” Asuma appeared next to them. He pulled Chouji closer and sighed, “Let's take you to your teammates.”

Chouji brightened up considerably, “Let's get them some lunch! I bet they haven't eaten yet!”

Asuma sighed again, much fonder than before, “Yeah, let's get out of here. I'll bring Shikamaru back when the fights are over.”

They vanished in leaves.

“Well, well, well.” She jumped at the voice behind her. She turned to see Kakashi-sensei standing there staring at her, “My cute little pink student is going to the finals.”

She blushed heavily, “Sensei, I-I—”

His hand landed on her head, and he shook his hand like petting a dog. She stood there blinking. He smiled with his eye, “I'm not surprised, you are my best student.”

She exploded red and dropped her chin to her chest, “Thank you, Kakashi-sensei.”

He patted her head again and pulled away, “Let's clear the arena, and let them continue.”

There were some congratulatory pats among other things as she walked back to Sasuke. She paused as he stared at her, before he huffed and turned away to stare at the empty arena. She swallowed any disappointment, *of course he's angry with me, I'm going to the third stage, and he was pulled before he could even fight. Just ignore him.*

Interestingly, there was a sweat among the last competitors. The girl from the sand was the calmest, but she kept glancing at her brother nervously. The red-head boy looked a little eager for the next match. She could see Kiba fiddling uneasily from Shino's side. Neji Hyuuga was cold but clearly impatient for his match. And finally, the boy covered in bandages was staring at all the others, clearly wondering who he would fight.

One of them won't fight, she thought, there are five people left...and one of them is Kiba. He needs a good match...I hope he gets Neji. At least we know he won't try to kill him.

Her thoughts were not answered like how she hoped.

Temari Versus Dosu.

A good match.

Mostly because Sakura spent almost all of it staring at Kiba, and quietly hoping he would just back out now. Save them all the trouble of watching him...lose.

It was almost painful knowing Kiba would lose, but he would. The boy from Sand was radiating a bloodthirsty aura as he watched his teammate fly around the bandage-covered-boy. Neji was apparently a prodigy of a Hyuga. Kiba was good, but if fights between her and him ended 50/50, and she knew she would lose to Neji, he was no doubt going to lose.

Temari was literally flying around with a very powerful wind jutsu. But Dosu was no pushover and would chase and they would fight hand-to-hand. Watching it, at least to Sakura, looked like the most advanced fight. They were both clearly chunin level and this fight gave a good showcase of both of them.

But it was still over too soon.

Temari threw her fan open with a yell and an overwhelming wave of wind hit the other side of the arena and Dosu was flung, hard, into the wall.

A moment of silence followed, and the proctor raised his hand, coughing, "Dosu is no longer able to compete. Temari wins."

The sandy haired girl had a tired, but sharp grin, as she made her way back up to her team. Waving off the medics with a laugh, all but one of the sand-nin were currently moving on to the finale. Interestingly, none of the sound-nin made it. Bad luck with their pair-ups.

"And the last match..."

Everyone in the stands froze. Pausing and waiting for the announcement as the board rang as it landed on two names.

Sakura inhaled sharply, "Kiba..."

Kiba Inuzuka Versus Gaara

She was open mouthed, and her heart was beating out of her chest.

Kiba hissed between his teeth and Akamaru whined, "Not this freak..."

Shino made a quiet buzz behind him, "It might be wise to forfeit."

"What!? You cannot just quit!" Lee exclaimed, hands waving all over the place.

“I don't know, Lee,” Tenten cut in. She was staring down at the arena with a contemplative hand on her chin, “Somethings up about that kid. Can you feel it?”

“He feels like a good opponent!” Lee declared after a moment.

She slapped her hand to her face with a groan.

Kiba was clenching his fists tightly, “I can definitely tell you what's wrong with that guy! He killed someone! Without even blinking! How am I even going to get close to him?”

Sakura clapped her hands together, “Anything far away is best. Genjutsu or maybe ninjutsu?”

“Kiba Inuzuka?” The proctor called up to them, “Are you fighting?”

Gaara was staring up at them without blinking. His bloodlust seemed to be all gone, but Sakura would bet he was just keeping it tight to his chest so as to not scare off Kiba. Like a predator waiting for its prey.

“Kiba,” Kurenai appeared next to them, “You do not have to fight. You can simply forfeit.”

He was staring down indecisive, “I don't think I can. I mean, what will my mom say? Or any of the clan? That I couldn't even get in the ring?” He grimaced, “I'm better off dead.”

“Kiba!” She, Kurenai-sensei and Shino snapped.

He closed his eyes and suddenly picked Akamaru off his head. She found his small body shoved into her arm. She quickly held him close and looked down at the sad looking pup.

“What are you...?” She asked, confused at his action.

“I'm going to fight, but I don't want Akamaru there. One wrong move and he's dead. I can't let that happen.” And then he jumped down into the arena.

Sakura held Akamaru close and pet him, trying to soothe the puppies' whining. There was an ominous silence among the group as they took in his actions.

Shino looked up at his sensei from behind his glasses, “We will pull him if anything happens?”

Kurenai pursed her red lips, “Without a doubt.”

He nodded, assured at her resolve.

There was a heaviness in the air now. Like before, that feeling of chakra in the air, haunting the room and creating a haunting atmosphere.

A hand was on her arm, and she asked, “You will help if something happens, right?”

Kakashi-sensei sighed, “His sensei will, and we will step in if she needs help.”

She hugged Akamaru closer, “Okay.”

There was no bowing and the second the proctor announced the fight Kiba jumped as far back as he could.

There was no movement from the redhead. But the pressure in the room increased at Kiba's wariness. Gaara's team looked resigned, like they knew what was about to happen and were just waiting for the end.

She almost wanted to be angry for Kiba, but she didn't have the room when she was so filled with fear.

A long tendril of sand rushed at Kiba. He jumped back and latched his hand to the wall, and then attached his feet. Another tendril and Kiba was running along the wall dodging the grainy pieces of the Earth.

She was yelling out, she realized. Cheering loudly and screaming at him to dodge. Akamaru whimpered in her arms.

Kiba paused for a second and she almost lost her mind, but when he turned, he scratched at the sand. She tightened her arms around the puppy and lamented the fact that all of her friends weren't with her.

She blinked surprised when the sand skirted back at the slash but narrowed her eyes. She turned to Shino, "Did he do something to his claws?"

"A jutsu," Shino answered, and she saw that his hands were white knuckled around the bars, "Turns them as strong as iron, and allows him to slash items as strong as rock. But he has only just started using it. It will not last long enough for him to get a good hit. Not while he is defending."

It was the longest she ever heard him talk, yet it was out of fear.

Kiba used it to get closer, slashing at the sand, but Shino was right, the sand was too fast and was pushing him back.

A sharp spray from the back and he was sent flying.

"Kiba! Look out!" She yelled down below. Another sand tendril was coming up behind him; it was a cat and mouse game.

Kiba jumped out of the way with a terrified look on his face. She could see the jutsu he put on his nails was gone as they were back to being simple long claws.

He was moving as fast as possible and dodging and diving, but there was no way he was going to last much longer. His endurance wasn't high enough to continue especially if he expected to get close to cause any damage. He was getting tired and with the sand getting closer and biting at his skin more and more, this fight was going nowhere.

She could see it in his eyes too. Kiba's face was scrunched, and he was red. His hair stuck to his temples and his neck. She could see scrapes on his skin appearing, some drawing blood as the sand battered into him.

He knew it too based on the frustrated look on his face.

Kiba paused for a moment and raised his hand with a pained glance, “Sensei...I fo—”

And then a mountain of sand hit him.

Her eyes bulged and a shriek tore from her throat, “KIBA!”

Akamaru was barking wildly, trying to escape her hold. Shino was buzzing and speaking loudly as the sand washed Kiba away until she couldn't see him anymore. Lee was still screaming encouragement that started to sound strained, and Tenten was calling at them to stop the fight. Even Neji had his eyes locked on the fight, with his eyes slightly widened. His byakugan was no doubt seeing what was happening. Sasuke was dead silent next to her.

It was only for a second, but it felt like ages before Kiba was thrown out of the sand. Her mind was fuzzy and her breathing heavy, *again, again, and again. When will this nightmare of my friends and family getting hurt end?*

Her thoughts overtook her, and she wanted nothing more to jump down and grab him. But it was Neji's words that sealed the deal.

“His legs...somethings wrong with his legs.”

It was obvious looking at Kiba and she felt sick with it. It was the same as Ino and Sasuke getting bit. Or Naruto going down. Or Ren being here and sick. It was all just one after another.

“He's done,” Kurenai-sensei's voice was strong and commanding as she spoke loudly. Sakura stared in awe, but she could see regret under that facade. They all knew something terrible just happened and yet they were standing here just watching.

The proctor nodded, “Kiba Inuzuka lo—”

“Gaara stop!” A loud male voice shouted. It was the Sand ninja teacher, who looked very frightened.

Probably because another massive wave of sand flew towards Kiba who was almost unconscious.

A loud panic hit them, and they all screamed at him to stop the match, and that it had ended. Kurenai-sensei launched herself off the railing.

The proctor was yelling loudly that the fight was over. The other jounin were just standing there, watching and staring as if wondering if this kid was actually going to kill Kiba.

Oh, she thought to herself, he's going to kill Kiba.

Or at least he was going to when he suddenly shouted and clutched at his head and pushed his fingers into his eyes. They all went silent as the sand retreated and surrounded him as if to fight off an invisible threat. He whispered out, “Where are my eyes?”

His raspy quiet voice shocked them and from the other side of the arena Kurenai, who was holding Kiba with her hand on her forehead said, "They're with me."

"She blinded him with genjutsu," Sasuke hissed at her.

Gaara was glaring at nothing as he pulled his hands away, "Give them back."

She pursed her lips and stared down at the red-haired boy, "No."

There was a quiet murmuring among the sand-nin at her declaration. Their teacher finally, and awkwardly, called for Gaara to come back up and that his fight was done.

This, obviously, barely satisfied Kurenai but she released whatever jutsu she did and quickly turned and ran with Kiba clutched in her arms. Sakura stared blankly as she realized blood was dripping steadily onto the floor.

There was silence as Gaara went back up to his team and no one wanted to move.

The proctor cleared his hoarse throat, "Alright. Everyone gather round, the Hokage will announce the next round for those moving on."

She jumped at hands on her shoulders. Kakashi-sensei was looking down at her, "Well, go on. The others will show up soon. I'll get Ren for you."

She blinked. *Ren had left before her match. Where had he even gone?*

She, Shino, Lee, Tenten and Neji all jumped down. Sasuke was standing up there. His fingers clenching the railing so tight that his knuckles were white. She swallowed and waved up at him.

He did not wave back.

She gulped. The other sand-nin dropped down, and she was taken aback at the grouping of them. It was her group of genin and the sand-nin. And that was it.

Lucky for us.

She stood next to Tenten when Shikamaru suddenly appeared, and with him was Hinata. She was bandaged and looked much better. They all stood next to each other with Lee standing next to the sand-nin to keep them from being next to one another.

The Hokage walked out and smiled warmly at them, and he clasped his hands together, "Well done everyone."

She tuned out the speech as she watched as the jounin in the back walked back-and-forth whispering to each other as they handed each other something. It looked like a piece of paper as they all continued to talk and conspire among them. Finally, they stopped and walked over to the Hokage and handed it to him.

In her mind she gaped, *did they just blatantly show that they choose who we will fight?*
What?

Finally, the Hokage stopped and held up the paper, “After randomly selecting, we have who you will fight in a month.”

She was staring dumbly.

“First, Sakura Haruno and Shino Aburame.”

Sakura jostled as she heard her name and turned to see Shino looking cool. She gulped but nodded to herself. *You could do it. You have a month to prepare, and you know how he fights.*

“Second,” There was a pause from the Hokage but he continued, “Hinata Hyugga and Neji Hyugga.”

They all stilled and blinked. She couldn't believe they chose that fight; *how could they make a family fight?*

“Third, Shikamaru Nara and Temari.”

Shikamaru shuffled next to her at his name.

“Fourth, Kankuro and Tenten.”

Sakura blinked, and Tenten had a grin on her face.

“Fifth and Finally,” There was a long pause as they realized who the last fight was, “Rock Lee and Gaara.”

Holy Shit.

They were all glancing at each other, and Lee looked almost excited to fight the boy who attacked and hurt Kiba so terribly. Shikamaru looked like he would rather be anywhere else. Shino had no expression and Hinata was swaying on her feet. Neji was clearly prepared and looked ready to fight now.

She was the only one from her team. Along with Shikamaru. She had to make them proud. For Ino and Kiba who should be here. And Sasuke who is strong but stubborn. And Naruto who was a good sport even though he could have won.

Her eyes glanced up to see Ren on the ledge staring down and she clenched her fist.

I'm going to win.

AH

I have had this part stuck in my head since I've started this story. Sorry Kiba, and Ino, and Sasuke and all the other ninja besides sand and our genin. I think the story is best this way tho. They arent really uh important lol

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